

Media Alert

7 March 2016

**Minister Meets Young Patients with Kidney Disease
World Kidney Day
Kidney Disease and Children
Better Knowledge. Better Care.**

'It is crucial that we continue to strive for world's best practice in the detection and treatment of children with both hereditary and acquired disorders of the kidney and urinary tract.' *Dr Joshua Kausman, Chairman of the Australian and New Zealand Paediatric Nephrology Association*

**Media Invitation to Attend
Women's and Children's Hospital 8.30am Tuesday 8 March 2016**

Please meet at Kermode Street entrance Women's and Children Hospital to join Health Minister and patients (children with kidney disease)

Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide will be the focus of World Kidney Day at 8.30am on Tuesday 8 March 2016 with a visit from Health Minister Hon Jack Snelling to talk with children and their families about their experiences with kidney disease and the importance of World Kidney Day.

In a joint national communique for World Kidney Day 10 March 2016, Chairman of the Australian and New Zealand Paediatric Nephrology Association Dr Joshua Kausman and Managing Director of Kidney Health Australia Anne Wilson said there is a need to improve kidney health knowledge, patient care and also to reduce risk factors.

Dr Kausman, a paediatric nephrologist and clinical lead in kidney transplantation said, 'treatments such as dialysis and transplantation are now highly successful in children whose kidneys fail, but do not offer a complete cure.'

Historically, children with kidney failure who receive dialysis or even a transplant have still been at **10-100 fold higher risk of dying and had a life expectancy 25-50 years less than their healthy peers.**

'It is crucial that we continue to strive for world's best practice in the detection and treatment of children with both hereditary and acquired disorders of the kidney and urinary tract.'

'Improved knowledge and understanding enables translation into tools for early detection and effective treatment.'

While the mortality associated with many chronic diseases including some cancers is stable and even declining, deaths related to kidney disease are unchanged, with two Australian lives lost every hour.

Chronic kidney disease has NO warning signs and it is estimated 1.7 million Australians aged 18 and over already have at least one clinical sign of existing chronic kidney disease,

and approximately 90% of these people may be unaware they may be on a descending pathway towards end stage kidney failure.

It is estimated that over 20,000 people will die with a kidney related disease in 2016.

World Kidney Day is a global awareness campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. All across the globe many hundred events take place from public screenings in Argentina to Zumba marathons in Malaysia. We do it all to create awareness about preventive behaviours, risk factors, and how to live with a kidney disease. We do this because we want kidney health for all.

For more information on World Kidney Day in Australia visit kidney.org.au.

Kidney Health Australia, formerly the Australian Kidney Foundation, is a national health care charity with a vision 'to save and improve the lives of Australians affected by kidney disease'. As the national peak body, Kidney Health Australia promotes good kidney health through delivery of programs in education, advocacy, research and support.

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