

15 June, 2020

**\*\*\*\*Media Release\*\*\*\***

**Kidney Health Australia awarded funding investment to improve kidney disease outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**

The peak body for kidney disease in Australia, Kidney Health Australia, is pleased to announce Federal Government funding of over \$700k to support world-first clinical guidelines to improve the diagnosis and treatment of kidney disease within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Kidney Health Australia CEO, Chris Forbes, said the funding was vital to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who were at higher risk of kidney disease than non-indigenous people.

“We are very pleased to have the Federal Government’s ongoing support in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver better health outcomes for kidney disease,” Mr Forbes said.

“Kidney disease is an insidious and deadly disease that is often not detected until kidneys fail, and the treatment for end stage kidney disease can make life very challenging – for First Nations people, the social, spiritual and community impact is immense.”

Mr Forbes said the rate of kidney disease in indigenous communities was twice as high as non-indigenous communities, with 1 in 5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having the indicators for chronic kidney disease.

“Since 2018, we have conducted consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around Australia to develop a framework for evidence-based guidelines that are specific to the management of kidney disease within their communities, and will deliver better health outcomes.

“The Federal Government funding enables us to deliver what the community has clearly told us is long-overdue - meaningful and appropriate clinical guidelines that are aligned with First Nations’ community preferences and needs,” Mr Forbes said.

For more information on the Federal Government’s funding announcement, [click here](#).

**Ends**

**For media enquiries please contact:**

Darren Saffin, Progressive PR and Publicity, on 0411 089 209/03 9696 6417

Maria O’Sullivan, GM, Marketing and Community, Kidney Health Australia on 0434 801 485, or email [media@kidney.org.au](mailto:media@kidney.org.au)

## **About Kidney Health Australia**

At Kidney Health Australia, we are a leading voice for the kidney community, providing vital resources and support to people affected by kidney disease and working closely with clinical and research community to support treatment and research improvements, so that one day every Australian can live with better kidney health.

## **About Kidney Health Australia's Indigenous Yarnings Consultations**

- Kidney Health Australia-Caring for Australasians with Renal Impairment (KHA-CARI) guidelines have been helping clinicians care for people with kidney disease since 1999.
- In 2018, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, awarded a grant to Kidney Health Australia to undertake consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to talk about what is most important to them and their kidney health. These consultations will inform the development of KHA-CARI guidelines specifically for the management of kidney disease within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Ten consultations have been conducted or currently underway in Adelaide, Port Augusta, Ceduna, Kalgoorlie, Perth, Broome, Cairns, Mt Isa, Dubbo and Brisbane. For more information visit [www.kidney.org.au/yarning-kidneys-consultations](http://www.kidney.org.au/yarning-kidneys-consultations).

## **Kidney Health Facts**

- One in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have indicators of chronic kidney disease and are four times more likely to die from it than the non-Indigenous population
- Kidney-related disease kills more people each year than breast cancer, prostate cancer and road accidents
- Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics late last year revealed that about 63 people are dying with kidney-related disease every day
- People can lose 90% of kidney function without experiencing any visible symptoms
- One in three people living in Australia is at risk of developing chronic kidney disease
- Of the staggering 1.7 million Australians with signs of kidney disease, 1.5 million are not aware they have it.

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