**Kidney Health Renal Nurse Ambassador**

**Position Description**

The Kidney Health Nurse Ambassador Program is a volunteer program developed to implement stronger pathways of support for people living with kidney disease. It is a joint initiative between Kidney Health Australia and the Renal Society of Australasia. Your involvement in the Ambassador Program will play an important role in supporting the delivery of Kidney Health Australia’s services and programs to people with kidney disease and enhancing awareness of kidney disease within your local community.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Position Title:** | Kidney Health Ambassador |
| **Reports to:** | Kidney Health Australia Volunteer Manager |
| **Location:** | National |
| **FTE:** | Avge 1 hour per week (further hours to be agreed with Line Manager) | **Status:** | Volunteer – 12 month appointment |
| **Incumbent:** |  | **Date Effective:** | August 2021 |

**Kidney Health Australia**

Kidney Health Australia is a not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to promoting healthy kidneys for all Australians. As the peak body for kidney health in Australia, Kidney Health Australia promotes and supports prevention and awareness and detection activities, and advocates for better treatment and research options into life threatening kidney conditions and is a lifeline for people with kidney disease at every stage of their journey.

**Renal Society of Australasia**

The Renal Society of Australasia is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to advancing the care of people with kidney disease and to be a peak body for renal nursing and related allied health professionals. The RSA provides professional development support, sets standards in the care of people with kidney disease, communicates knowledge and information about kidney disease and associated treatments, and supports practice development, research, quality improvement and innovation.

**Title of position**

**Kidney Health Renal Nurse Ambassador**

**Purpose of position**

Kidney Health Ambassadors help to improve the quality of life for people with kidney disease through facilitating their access to, and knowledge of, kidney disease information, services, and resources to ensure they can live their best possible quality of life.

**Term of appointment**

The term of office for each Kidney Health Ambassador is 12 months and re-appointment will be on basis of having met program criteria and as agreed with your Line Manager, or the role may be passed on to another nurse in the unit as decided by your Line Manager.

**Responsibilities**

Ongoing:

* Be a champion for promoting Kidney Health Australia programs, resources, and information to patients within your unit to facilitate an ongoing relationship between Kidney Health Australia and the patient to help them manage their condition and way of life.
* Provide feedback and input regarding Kidney Health Australia’s resources, programs and services when required by Kidney Health Australia.
* Promote and help facilitate patient participation in peer support activities coordinated by Kidney Health Australia such as the Kidney Buddy Program, support groups and online communities.
* Identify and notify Kidney Health Australia of local social and support groups to assist with promoting local events for kidney consumers to access.
* Identify patient needs and issues to help facilitate service improvements and advocacy needs.
* Coordinate the unit’s involvement in, and support of, Kidney Health Australia’s Red Socks Appeal and Big Red Kidney Walk, and Kidney Health Week.

Optional:

* Coordinate or deliver patient education sessions to local communities using Kidney Health Australia resources in consultation with Kidney Health Australia’s Clinical Program and Partnerships team.

**Selection criteria**

Ambassadors will be selected by Kidney Health Australia based on an application process which will involve approval from your Line Manager, and meeting the following criteria:

**Qualifications and Experience**

* Qualified renal nurse working within an Australian renal unit or private clinic.
* Current member of the Renal Society of Australasia.

**Attributes**

* Will have a passion and desire to improve the quality of life for people living with kidney disease, and their families and carers.
* Will have the confidence, expertise and ‘can do’ attitude to delivering, coordinating, and promoting information and activities.
* Will have the willingness and enthusiasm to facilitate connections between Kidney Health Australia, Renal Society of Australia and local support groups, community groups and volunteer networks to build an engaged kidney community.
* Able to work with Kidney Health Australia and the Renal Society of Australasia to undertake prevention, awareness and support activities that will reach and engage local communities.
* Able to support Kidney Health Australia’s community fundraising and events through encouraging the involvement of patients, their families and carers, and others within the local hospital network.

**Time commitment**

* Average of 1 hour per week, and further hours as agreed with your Line Manager.
* An hour allocated every quarter to check in with Kidney Health Australia’s Community Engagement and Services staff to report on progress against schedule of activities and other issues/activities that may arise while fulfilling activities.

**Benefits**

* Formal recognition as a Kidney Health Renal Nurse Ambassador.
* Professional development opportunity to demonstrate leadership amongst your peers, and gain certification of hours completed from Kidney Health Australia for any community education activities completed
* Two virtual sessions with other Ambassadors, senior RSA and KHA staff to discuss issues and opportunities for patient support.
* Expanding scope of work to integrate clinical and community care for the patient’s benefit.
* Contribute to improving the quality of life for people with kidney disease.
* Building a community of practice representing consumer, clinical and KHA voices.

**Support**

Kidney Health Renal Nurse Ambassadors will be supported by their Line Manager to conduct volunteer Ambassador work within their renal unit. The training, communications and resources required to manage the role will be managed by Kidney Health Australia’s Community Engagement and Services team, with support from the RSA. Any work undertaken by the Ambassadors outside their work hours will be considered voluntary activity, and they will receive appropriate training from KHA in conducting this work in a voluntary capacity. Upon successful completion of induction training, the applicant will be known as a Kidney Health Renal Nurse Ambassador.

**Resources and policies / agreements**

* Welcome Letter
* Login access to Kidney Health Australia Ambassador Program portal
* Terms of Reference
* Position Description
* Relevant documentation including induction materials such as Privacy Policy, Code of Conduct and description of duties
* Resources including promotional collateral and patient resources
* Schedule of Kidney Health Australia Activities for 2021
* Sample Kidney Health Resources to help referral to Kidney Health Australia for ongoing support.

Date position developed: June 2021 Review due: **December 2021**