

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Queensland spirit shines through for very special Aussie kids

Over 130 very special 'Kidney Kids' and young people will be on the Gold Coast over the next few days.

Kidney Health Australia's 20th annual Kids Camp is being held at the Super Sports Centre at Runaway Bay (April 20–22), and will bring Australian kids affected by chronic kidney disease together to support each other and have fun.

To make this important event happen, Kidney Health Australia has joined forces with more than 100 volunteers from the Sunshine Coast University, the Queensland University of Technology and health professionals from paediatric hospitals around the country.

These volunteers ensure supervision and essential medical care is provided during the four days. Some children will have overnight dialysis treatments on camp, while others will travel to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital for haemodialysis.

Kidney Health Australia CEO, Mikaela Stafrace, said the camp is a much-loved event, providing respite not only for children, but for their parents and guardians as well. "Our Kidney Kids deal with a lot every day, and for a few days a year we can bring them together in a supportive environment to have lots of fun and feel a real connection to other kids. Not only are these kids really sick, but many of them suffer from low self-esteem, anxiety, and feelings of isolation as a result of their illnesses.

"Our Kidney Health Kids Camps provide a perfect opportunity for these kids to make new friends, while also giving their parents respite. The camps also give siblings a chance to better understand chronic kidney disease and meet other siblings of kids with the condition.

"I thank everyone involved in making this wonderful event happen and run so smoothly. Queensland is always so welcoming and the show of support from volunteers is simply amazing – we couldn't do it without them."

The Kidney Health Kids Camps are free for Kidney Kids to attend, and are made possible thanks to funds raised by the Kidney Kar Rally and community. For more information about the Kidney Health Kids Camps, or to make a donation, 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 education, advocacy, research and support.

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