

# CRICKET STAR CAMERON GREEN GOES INTO BAT FOR KIDS WITH KIDNEY DISEASE

## MONASH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PATIENTS MEET THEIR HERO

Australian test cricketer Cameron Green has gone into bat for children affected by kidney disease, paying a heartwarming visit to children on dialysis as the new ambassador for Kidney Health Australia.

It's an intensely personal health issue for the star all-rounder. Green, 25, has stage two kidney disease, having been diagnosed before birth with a chronic condition that impairs the organ's ability to filter blood.

He revealed his medical condition to his Australian teammates late last year after several related cramping episodes. A diet low in protein and sodium is therefore a key part of Green's ongoing management of the disease.

Green, a member of the victorious 2023 Cricket World Cup, Ashes (retained), and ICC World Test Championship teams, hopes his ambassadorial role with Kidney Health Australia raises awareness of a serious and incurable disease which so often goes undiagnosed.

But his primary motivation is to share his experience by helping kids and their families affected by kidney disease.

Kidney disease affects around 10 per cent of the world's adult population and more than 2 million Australians.

"Kidney disease is a challenge that affects many, and I hope that by sharing my journey I can support others who are facing this condition," Cameron said.

"Raising awareness and encouraging early detection is crucial in managing this condition effectively."

Green was in Melbourne on Tuesday, meeting young patients receiving treatment at the Monash Children's Hospital, presenting them and their families with priceless memories, and getting to see behind the scenes of the hospital's incredible healthcare system.

He said: "Seeing their strength and resilience firsthand reaffirms why this cause is so important to me. I want these kids to know they are not alone in their journey."

"We are thrilled to welcome Cameron Green as an ambassador for Kidney Health Australia," Kidney Health Australia CEO, Chris Forbes, said.

“His personal journey with kidney disease and his commitment to raising awareness will undoubtedly inspire many and bring much-needed attention to this critical health issue.”

“We urgently need to reduce the number of people reaching kidney failure. Raising awareness and encouraging early detection is crucial in improving kidney health outcomes across the country.”

Kidney disease can affect children and young people of all ages, from babies through to teenagers.

## KEY STATISTICS

- 3 in 4 Australians are at risk of chronic kidney disease.
- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) affects more than 2 million Australians – that’s one in every 10 Australian adults – yet it is often unknown and under-diagnosed, with 90% of people unaware they are living with CKD.
- Reliable statistics on the early stages of kidney disease in Australian children and young people are limited.
- Most kidney conditions in children and adolescents are due to genetic (inherited) conditions or problems with the structure of the kidneys
- CKD costs the Australian economy \$9.9 billion each year including \$2.3 billion to our healthcare system – a cost that can be greatly reduced if we diagnose kidney disease earlier.
- For every \$1 invested in earlier detection and treatment of kidney disease, there is \$45 saving to the health system.
- Over 90% of kidney function can be lost with no symptoms.
- Up to 50% of people on dialysis will experience depression.
- Australians undergoing dialysis spend an average of 60 hours per month connected to a machine that cleans their blood of toxins.
- Australians can wait between 5 to 7 years for a kidney transplant through the donor registry.
- Diabetes and hypertension are the leading causes of kidney failure in Australia, directly causing over 50% of all cases

## For more information

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**Kidney Health Australia** is the recognised voice for kidney disease in Australia. With no cure in sight and treatment shortages Kidney Health Australia is fighting to change the status quo: to change outdated treatments, increase accessibility, to be a voice for our unsung community, to train up healthcare professionals, and support individuals living with this deadly disease.

We’re walking hand in hand with our community of strong and courageous warriors to change lives and diagnose kidney disease earlier, for a brighter healthier life, free of invasive treatments. Together, we can rewrite the narrative of kidney disease.