

May 29, 2025

## KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO ACT

### TIME FOR CANBERRA TO INVEST AFTER GLOBAL BREAKTHROUGH

Kidney Health Australia, a founding member of the Global Patient Alliance for Kidney Health, is calling on the federal government to adopt the recommendations made by the groundbreaking Kidney Health Resolution and approved this week by the World Health Assembly.

The milestone decision recognised kidney health as a key priority in the fight against non-communicable diseases, formally acknowledging the growing burden of kidney disease worldwide and the 674 million people living with the insidious disease.

In Australia, 2.7 million Australians are living with indicators of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and a staggering 2.5 million Australians with signs of CKD have no idea they have it.

Kidney Health Australia Chief Executive Officer, Chris Forbes, said the decision is a monumental step forward for kidney health worldwide.

“For the first time, kidney care is officially on the global health agenda, and we are thrilled to be part of this transformative moment,” he said.

“With government support and investment in early diagnosis, equitable access to treatment and support for ongoing research, we will save lives and reduce future healthcare costs.”

The resolution makes several recommendations to UN member states, including investment in health systems to improve prevention, early detection, and kidney disease management and treatment.

“This is a landmark moment for kidney health, both globally and here in Australia. The adoption of the WHO resolution recognises the urgent need to address the growing burden of kidney disease,” Rathika Krishnasamy, President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, said.

“We have more than 2.4 million people living with kidney disease in Australia. We now call on the Australian Government to stand with us and prioritise kidney health as a national public health imperative,” Mr Forbes added.

“Today we collectively celebrate this win, but the work begins now. With kidney disease now recognised and prioritised among non-communicable diseases, it is time for healthcare systems and policy makers to prioritise all stages of kidney disease progression – prevention, early detection and treatment.

“We extend our thanks to all those who supported the resolution, especially the International Society of Nephrology and the Ministerio de Salud de Guatemala for their leadership in championing this cause. We stand ready to support this crucial initiative.”

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