

Thanks to YOU, thousands of Australians are living longer, healthier lives despite kidney disease

Impact Report 2025

Thanks to all our partners, supporters and our courageous community, 2025 was a stand-out year. After launching our bold aspiration to **End Dialysis by 2050**, we took the first steps, turning aspiration into action.

We brought together industry partners and those with lived experience to outline a response to the kidney crisis confronting Australia. The mandate and unity that followed is a testament to the urgent need for change and great outcomes possible when we band together in collaboration to change the trajectory of the insidious disease.

We launched **Kidney Health 4 Life**, a first-of-its-kind tailored support program for people at all stages of kidney disease, their carers and others, who can now take more active management of their kidney health. The program already supports thousands of people and is growing rapidly.

As a united voice for change we stand ready and are leading the kidney revolution. We have a bold aspiration to **End Dialysis by 2050** and, together, we know we can achieve it.

We know how to reach the **2.5 million Australians unaware they're affected by kidney disease**, and we have the treatments and support programs to help them. Now we must act with decisive leadership and focused investment to change the paradigm of kidney disease from kidney failure to kidney preservation.

By standing with us, you are changing the way kidney disease is diagnosed and treated in Australia. Your support profoundly changes the experience of people living with the disease and prevents thousands of people from reaching kidney failure.

By 2050 we aim to dramatically increase early detection, reduce late-stage presentations and grow access to life-saving transplants.

It's an honour to work alongside our team and Board at Kidney Health Australia, who are so dedicated and inspired to make a difference to people's lives.

Thank you for your generous support and for helping us accomplish so much in 2025. Together, we are truly creating a kidney revolution.



Professor Carol Pollock AO
Chair MB, BS, PhD, FRACP, FAAHMS



Chris Forbes
Chief Executive Officer

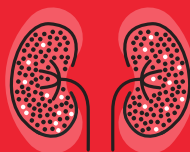
Why kidney disease matters

The kidney crisis in Australia is a public health emergency which cannot be ignored. Over **80%** of regions in Australia reported a waiting list to start dialysis or transfer care. In Central Australia we now see the highest rates of treated kidney failure per capita in the world. **The cost of preventable deaths and unnecessary costs to the Australian economy are neither palatable nor sustainable.**



CKD is common.

1 in 7 Australians are affected by kidney disease.



A hidden national problem.

2.5M Australians are unaware they have signs of kidney disease.



People do not know they have kidney disease.

You can lose **90%** of kidney function without symptoms.

Kidney disease is under-detected in Australia.

Only **23%** of people at known risk of CKD have had a **Kidney Health Check** in the last two years.

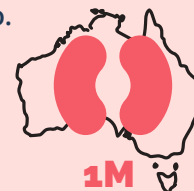


A silent killer.

50% of people with kidney disease die prematurely of a heart attack or stroke.

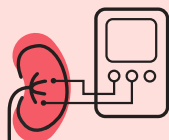
A growing threat.

1 million more Australians are affected by CKD than a decade ago.



Major impact on Australian families.

Australians with kidney failure are on life-support three days a week, five hours at a time. **Indefinitely.**



If we do nothing...

CKD will be the **5th** leading cause of death globally by 2050.



Detecting kidney disease early saves money.

Every **\$1** invested in early intervention, **saves \$45** in health care costs.

THERE IS GOOD NEWS. For the first time, we have the evidence, tools, and treatments to change the trajectory of kidney disease at scale. This is why Kidney Health Australia is leading the kidney revolution and calling **code red**.

We delivered ground-breaking results in 2025



Personalised evidence-based support 24/7

We launched **Kidney Health 4 Life**, Australia's first personalised lifelong kidney support program. It's a tailored **24/7 online hub** guiding members through evidence-based education modules and supporting practical resources, specific to their circumstances and stage of kidney disease. This pivotal lifestyle program, essential to maintaining kidney health, compliments medical protocols and allows doctors to refer their patients into the program for holistic support.

kidneyhealth4life.org.au

“Kidney Health 4 Life is amazing; you can get all the information and support you need—in the one place. It helps you take control of your kidney disease.”

- Debora



United like never before to defeat kidney disease

More than **140 community and industry voices** came together at the emergency **National Kidney Summit**, focused on early detection and agreed to five vital actions.

The Summit was followed by a **Kidney Health Policy Roundtable** in Canberra, addressing the growing burden of kidney disease in Australia and outlining strategies for prevention, detection, and improved care for all Australians at risk of, or affected by kidney disease.

By bringing together government, clinicians, industry, and community organisations, we created a shared focus on awareness campaigns, primary care engagement, and culturally tailored strategies. There was strong consensus that we can stop kidney disease in its tracks. We can prevent people from facing a life on dialysis. And we can change the future for those living with kidney disease.

Through your support we've delivered so much

Support services

Big Red Kidney Buses

1,290 holiday dialysis sessions were provided to **366 Aussies**, allowing them, and their families freedom to travel and spend time together.

Kidney Buddies

139 individuals were matched with Kidney Buddy mentors who have lived experience. No one should face kidney disease alone.

Kidney Health 4 Life

Since launching, over **3,000 people** have received personalised health and wellbeing support to help them take control of their kidney health and live healthier lives.

Kidney Health 4 Youth

125 children took part in special events across six states, bringing together **518 participants** including families and siblings—creating lasting connections and friendships to build resilience.

Transplant Houses

608 nights of free, safe and comfortable accommodation were provided to regional transplant patients to heal and recover.

Health Professionals education

2,500 Health Professionals participated in kidney health education, supporting the delivery of better care and improved health outcomes.

The **24/7 Healthcare Professionals Online Hub** has over **3,000 members**.

kidney.org.au/hphub

Patient resources and information when it's needed most

Kidney Helpline 1800 454 363

5,650 helpline calls were answered, providing guidance, reassurance and support to Australians affected by kidney disease. A personal and caring service.

Clinically-approved resources 24/7

111,000 trusted resources were downloaded, helping children, adults and carers feel informed and in control of their health.

30 patient factsheets were updated by our clinical team with the latest evidence-based information to support people living with kidney disease.

Increasing early detection and awareness

62,700 people took the online 2-minute **Kidney Risk Test**—raising awareness about kidney disease and saving lives.

Over **32,000 healthcare professionals** accessed the **CKD Management Handbook**, guiding diagnosis and management of CKD in Primary Care.

The **CKD Go app** for healthcare professionals had **23,500 active users**.





First Nations Peoples

A **Programs Manager, First Nations Health** came on board, collaborating with National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO), specialists and industry experts.

A co-designed, Indigenous-led strategy to achieve equity in First Nations Kidney Health was started. It aims to increase collaboration, create a national advocacy platform to address sustainable funding, and develop and implement a **“Strong Spirits, Strong Kidneys”** program to drive awareness, early detection and prevention of progression of kidney disease.

A gift that keeps giving

When we learned that my husband Dom, was facing kidney failure and our options seemed to be dialysis or a transplant, fear quickly set in. But when we discovered that I was a 99% match, we felt incredibly blessed. It meant that our children would continue to have their dad.

Knowing that leaving a Gift in our Will to Kidney Health Australia can make a difference to many others in the future is something special to us. They do a fantastic job to support clinicians and are continuously working to improve life saving research. You never know if one day someone else in the family may need to rely on Kidney Health Australia.

- Teresa and Dom

Get your free Will Guide at kidney.org.au/bequests



Research

In 2025, we formally established the **Kidney Research Alliance** together with ANZSN. To kick off this activity, the Kidney Research Alliance launched the report **The future of Australian kidney research**, which outlines five priority themes for Australian research in striving for better kidney health outcomes.

Kidney Health Australia actively supported and partnered with several research projects in 2025 to:

- 1. Diversify kidney treatments:** RESOLVE trial, led by the NHMRC CTC.
- 2. Improve prevention and early detection:** Impact of a pharmacy-led screening and intervention in people at risk of, or living with chronic kidney disease in a primary care setting, led by the University of Sydney and Global IMPACT CKD study, led by the London School of Economics and Eversana.
- 3. Increase equity of access to care and treatment:** NT Kidney Support Workers project, led by Charles Darwin University and Menzies School of Health research.
- 4. Improve the patient experience, outcomes and care in kidney disease:** Optimising self-management in people living with CKD – The **Kidney Health 4 Life** program, a joint program between Kidney Health Australia and Wollongong University, and BEAT-CKD, a national research initiative seeking to generate high quality research evidence to help patients, health professionals and policy makers make informed decisions about healthcare.



Summary of financial health

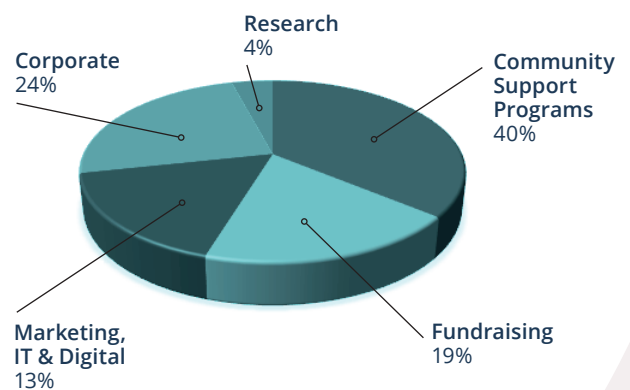
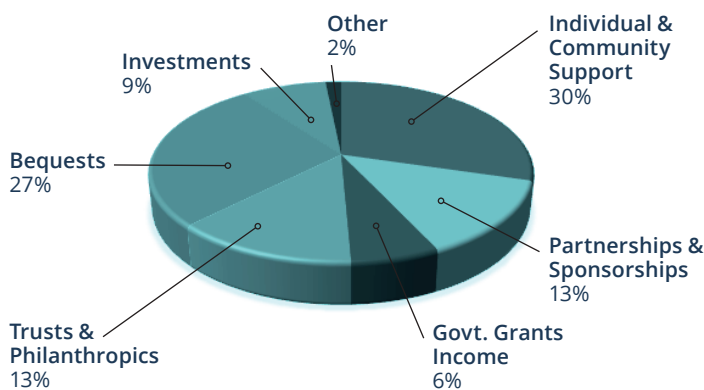
We purposely invested in key areas including **Kidney Health 4 Life**, the emergency summit into kidney disease focussed on early detection and First Nations Kidney Health. Expenditure was managed in a fiscally responsible manner resulting in a small surplus at year end.

2025 Revenue

Individual & Community Support	\$ 2,117,264
Partnerships & Sponsorships	\$ 961,558
Govt. Grants Income	\$ 450,000
Trusts & Philanthropics	\$ 940,457
Bequests	\$ 1,963,138
Investments	\$ 610,605
Other	\$ 113,732
Total	\$ 7,156,754

2025 Expenses

Community Support Programs	\$ 2,809,671
Fundraising	\$ 1,309,480
Marketing, IT & Digital	\$ 879,292
Corporate	\$ 1,691,635
Research	\$ 287,627
Total	\$ 6,977,705



Our financial health statements are available every July online at kidney.org.au/corporate-resources

My CKD could have been identified and treated 4 years earlier

Carla's kidney disease diagnosis was an incidental finding, but it should have been identified several years earlier.

At age 30, I received the unexpected diagnosis of an autoimmune kidney disease (IgA nephropathy). Because I was young and felt healthy, the news came as a shock.

Six years later, despite treatment, my kidneys were failing and I needed dialysis. After 14 exhausting months managing full-time work and dialysis three nights a week, I received a kidney transplant and am now doing well.

However, looking back at results from earlier (unrelated) blood tests taken during my mid-twenties, I discovered that signs of early CKD had already been present, but not flagged; I had missed out on the chance of early treatment.

My experience highlights how better awareness of CKD could ensure early detection and give people the chance of effective early treatment.

- Carla McNaughton, consumer advocate



Thank you. We can't do it without your support

Right now, we have an opportunity to detect kidney disease earlier, slow its progression, and prevent thousands of Australians from reaching kidney failure. Your partnership will expand life-changing programs like **Kidney Health 4 Life**, drive early detection across the **2.7 million affected** by kidney disease, and ensure no one faces this disease alone.

Trusts and Foundations

James Family Foundation
Isabelle and John Gilbertson Charitable Trust
Viridian Foundation
Parker Foundation
Stan Perron Charitable Fund
CMV Foundation
MAST Foundation
Randall Foundation
Channel 7 Perth Telethon
Boehringer Connections Grant
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PEAK (Primary care Education Advisory committee for Kidney Health Australia)

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Dr Angus Ritchie (deputy chair)
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Ms Jane Bollen
Dr Leanne Brown
Prof Karen Dwyer
Ms Kylie Foley
Prof Shilpa Jesudason
A/Prof Ivor Katz
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Prof Craig Nelson
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National Kidney Summit Expert Working Group

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Prof Steve Chadban
Dr Leanne Brown
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Mr Shailendra Tripathi
Dr Hannah Wallace
Dr Lucy Wynter
Dr Gary Chang
Prof Bobby Chacko
Dr Natalie Pink
Prof Mark Shephard



We're changing the narrative of kidney disease

Our people are at the centre of what we do. Walking hand in hand with our courageous community, we are the voice for these unsung heroes, bridging their experience with advocacy at the highest levels of government.

Together we are leading sector change, and fighting for unparalleled outcomes. It is with greatest recognition to our staff who carry the torch and work closely with partners and industry to make this a reality.

We recognise that the time is now. Momentum towards better outcomes in kidney health has intensified with ground-breaking progress achieved after decades of stagnation.

No cure

At just 17, Maddie was suddenly diagnosed with kidney disease. Maddie spent a month in hospital before beginning dialysis just 18 months later - all while her mum was undergoing cancer treatment.

Maddie was lucky to receive a kidney transplant at age 20, but a transplant is not a cure. Maddie still needs to take daily medication to ensure her transplant isn't rejected whilst also managing the damaging side effects of these medications.

“ Having kidney disease is really scary, but it is comforting to know that there is support and services available when you need it. ”

- Maddie



Please continue to stand with us to turn this progress into lasting impact. Because together, we can create a healthier future for all Australians.

Be in touch to get involved:

Kidney Helpline 1800 454 363
careteam@kidney.org.au
kidney.org.au

 **Kidney Health**
Australia

