

Media Release

For immediate release

Fremantle kidney transplant recipient celebrates record breaking 50 year anniversary

On 1 July, Fremantle resident Glenis Lucanus will celebrate a special anniversary with her family, having lived with the same donated kidney for the past 50 years.

Glenis has the longest surviving donated kidney in Western Australia and the third oldest donated kidney in Australia, according to the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplantation Authority (ANZDATA).

Kidney Health Australia Chief Executive, Chris Forbes, said Glenis's story gave hope to chronic kidney disease patients eligible for a transplant that the procedure could help them live well and for longer.

"Glenis received her kidney transplant in the early days of kidney transplantation when it was just emerging as a viable treatment for chronic kidney disease," Mr Forbes said.

"With each successful transplant, the medical community's understanding and confidence has grown and now transplantation is considered the gold standard therapy for patients who are eligible, and Glenis is an incredible testament to the success of this treatment.

"Over the last 50 years, thanks to research and commitment from the clinical community and the generosity of donors and donor families, transplantation has provided life-saving treatment for thousands of people living with kidney disease," Mr Forbes said.

"This generosity has also enabled us to run important support programs such as our transplant houses, which provide vital accommodation for families undergoing kidney transplant in Perth and other capital cities."

Glenis has always regarded her transplant as a special gift that required all her care and attention, keeping herself well and healthy for herself and her growing family.

"Right at the very beginning, I thought if I ever got a kidney transplant I'd look after it, and I've kept to my promise," Glenis said.

"I can't believe I keep achieving these milestones and I don't think my family can either, but they are very happy and supportive," Glenis said.

Glenis's husband Bill is particularly pleased that Glenis has been able to enjoy a long and happy family life with their three daughters, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. "He's as happy as Larry, you'd think it was his (kidney)," Glenis said.

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For more information on Kidney Health Australia's transplant house program visit www.kidney.org.au/kidney-transplant-housing or to donate to Kidney Health Australia visit www.kidney.org.au/donate

For media enquiries or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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Kidney Health Australia is a not-for-profit and the peak body for kidney health in Australia with the aim to protect 5 million at risk Australians from developing end stage kidney disease, and to save and improve the lives of people already affected by the disease through support services and funding crucial research. To find out more visit www.kidney.org.au

Kidney Health Facts

- The average wait for a kidney transplant is three years.
- According to ANZDATA, in 2017 there were 1,109 kidney transplants performed in Australia and 187 performed in New Zealand, with live donor transplants contributing 24% and 37% of total transplants, respectively.
- Kidneys are essential to a person's health and wellbeing. They rid your body of waste (through urine), clean your blood of waste and toxins, regulate your blood pressure and manage the production of Vitamin D – essential to strong bones, muscles and overall health! If a person's kidneys stop functioning, they will die within a few days
- The biggest risk factors for kidney disease are diabetes, high blood pressure, established heart problems and/or stroke, family history of kidney failure, smoking, obesity, being 60 years or older, of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, or a history of acute kidney injury. To check your risk visit www.kidney.org.au/kidneyrisktest
- 65 people die with kidney-related disease every day
- Kidney disease is a silent killer - sufferers can lose 90% of kidney function without experiencing any symptoms
- 1 in 3 people in Australia are at risk of developing chronic kidney disease
- A staggering 1.7 million Australian adults are affected by kidney disease while 1.5 million of those are unaware of it
- Kidney-related disease kills more people than breast cancer, prostate cancer and road accidents combined

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- Tragically, one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have indicators of chronic kidney disease and are four times more likely to die from it than the non-Indigenous population.