

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 8, 2019

Big Red Kidney Bus returns to Nelson Bay

The Big Red Kidney Bus is returning to Halifax Holiday Park, Nelson Bay from October 28 until 14 December. The bus enables people living with end-stage kidney disease to enjoy the beautiful local sights while receiving life-saving dialysis treatment.

“Nelson Bay is a fantastic holiday spot that caters to the whole family so naturally it is one of our most popular locations. Last year we were there in April, so it’s nice that we can return in summer to give our kidney community the opportunity to take full advantage of the warm weather” says Chris Forbes, Chief Executive Officer, Kidney Health Australia.

Kidney Health Australia’s mobile dialysis bus allows families and individuals around Australia to holiday while continuing their dialysis treatment. On average, dialysis patients need to have treatment for up to five hours at a time, three days a week. Holiday dialysis chair availability is very limited around Australia so a lot of people receiving dialysis have never had a holiday or been able to travel in years.

In partnership with Royal North Shore Hospital, the Big Red Kidney Bus has capacity to provide up to 1,500 dialysis treatments a year under the expert care of the Royal North Shore Hospital dialysis team.

Veteran bus user, Anthony McGrath, has been able to holiday in Lakes Entrance, Mildura, Warrnambool and Nelson Bay since being introduced to the Big Red Kidney bus by a fellow patient at the Shepparton Renal Unit.

“This is our third time coming to Nelson Bay. It’s close to Newcastle, where our daughter lives, so I am able to dialyse in Nelson Bay while I’m staying with her,” says Anthony McGrath. “The bus is a wonderful service, particularly for those who don’t have private health insurance. It means they can still go on holiday.”

The Big Red Kidney Bus has three seats on board and can treat up to six holidaymakers a day, equipped with headphone sockets and TV’s. It travels to various popular holiday spots in NSW and Victoria throughout the year.

The Big Red Kidney Bus is open to all Australians on hospital, satellite or home haemodialysis, with full admission criteria found on the Kidney Health Australia website at www.kidney.org.au/bus

Kidney Health Australia is grateful for the continued generosity of individuals and organisations in the community whose generous donations help to run the Big Red Kidney Bus and other vital support programs for people with kidney disease. Donations to support the bus can be made at www.kidney.org.au/donate.

For more information on the bus, the location it visits throughout the year, or booking a familiarisation visit, call 1800 454 363 or email bigredkidneybus@kidney.org.au or visit www.kidney.org.au/bus.

-ENDS-

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

- 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!
- 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
- 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.

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