

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Big Red Kidney Bus returns to Warrnambool

The Big Red Kidney Bus is returning to Warrnambool from November 4 until December 14, enabling people living with end-stage kidney disease to enjoy a seaside holiday while receiving life-saving dialysis treatment.

The bus will be located at the NRMA Warrnambool Riverside Holiday Park on the banks of the Hopkins River, just a few minutes east of the town centre and a short drive from the world famous Great Ocean Road.

“Warrnambool is one of our original bus locations and I have lived there so it’s particularly special to me. It’s fast becoming a hotspot for gourmet dining experiences and given that it’s home to stunning coastlines and an abundance of whale activity, it’s the perfect destination for a relaxing getaway.” Says Chris Forbes, Chief Executive Officer, Kidney Health Australia.

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. On average, dialysis patients need to have treatment for up to five hours at a time, three days a week.

In partnership with Monash Health, the Big Red Kidney Bus has capacity to provide over 1,000 dialysis treatments a year under the expert care of the Monash Health dialysis team.

Jamie Blackaby is undertaking a four and half hour journey to Warrnambool to celebrate his 22nd birthday with his daughter and her grandmother. “I haven’t been able to have a holiday in two years, since I began my dialysis treatment. This is my first time using the bus and I’ve heard really great things about Warrnambool so I am excited to enjoy the warm weather by the sea with my daughter and her grandmother.” He says.

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