

MEDIA ALERT FOR FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2019

BIG RED KIDNEY BUS MORNING TEA IN DUBBO

PRESENTED BY KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA AND ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

What: Big Red Kidney Bus Morning Tea in Dubbo.

Together with the Royal North Shore Hospital, Kidney Health Australia is presenting a Morning Tea at the Big Red Kidney Bus stationed in Dubbo. The award-winning Big Red Kidney Bus program provides a mobile haemodialysis service, allowing patients the chance to have a holiday, and visit family and friends, whilst still receiving life-saving treatment.

The Morning Tea comes ahead of the start Kidney Health Australia's national awareness raising campaign, Kidney Health Week (8-14 April), where communities are encouraged to check their kidneys by completing an online risk test at:

<https://kidney.org.au/kidneyrisktest/>

Where: 154 Whylandra Street, Dubbo, Discovery Parks

When: Friday 5 April 2019, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Interviewees:

- **Nicole Fahney O'Rouke**, indigenous kidney patient who discovered she had kidney disease only when on bedrest due to fluid retention in pregnancy. Nicole will be dialysing while the Big Red Kidney Bus is in Dubbo.
- **Keren Snell**, kidney patient who despite having diabetes had little knowledge of kidney disease. After she collapsed one day, Keren was diagnosed with kidney disease; she had lost 90% kidney function by then. Keren will be dialysing on the bus during the Morning Tea.
- **Jacinta McMahon**, Big Red Kidney Bus Project Manager, Kidney Health Australia.
- **Yvonne Shen**, Nephrologist, Royal North Shore Hospital

Visuals:

- Huge red bus full of medical equipment including haemodialysis machines
- Kidney patients dialysing and using amenities
- Kidney patients and stakeholders enjoying morning tea
- Deputy Mayor and local health network attending the morning tea

Why:

- There are currently 13,000 Australians on dialysis
- There are 1,100 on the organ transplant list waiting for a kidney

- Kidney disease sufferers can lose 90% of kidney function without experiencing any symptoms
- Kidney-related disease kills more people than breast cancer, prostate cancer and road accidents combined
- Figures released by the Bureau of Statistics late last year revealed that 65 people are dying with kidney-related disease every day
- One in three people living in Australia is at risk of developing chronic kidney disease
- Of the staggering 1.7 million people affected by kidney disease, 1.5 million are not aware they have it
- 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
- Kidney-related disease is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$4.1 billion a year

MEDIA ENQUIRES AT EVENT:

Jacinta McMahon, Kidney Health Australia
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About Kidney Health Week

More Australians die with kidney-related disease each year than breast cancer, prostate cancer and road accidents combined, yet awareness of this silent killer remains low. For Kidney Health Week (8-14 April 2019), Kidney Health Australia is urging everyone to take a simple online Kidney Risk Test to see if they are at increased risk of developing chronic kidney disease

About the Big Red Kidney Bus

The Big Red Kidney Buses are open to all Australians on hospital, satellite or home haemodialysis. The buses travel to popular holiday destinations across Victoria and NSW, where they are located for up to six weeks at a time, staffed by experienced dialysis nurses and renal technicians. The program launched in NSW in 2017 and partners with Royal North Shore Hospital who run the dialysis service on the bus.

Royal North Shore Hospital

Established in 1885, Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) and its associated health services meet the health needs of four local government areas - Mosman, Willoughby, Lane Cove and North Sydney. RNSH is a principal tertiary referral centre as well as a NSW Trauma Centre. The state-wide services provided by RNSH are nephrology, severe burns injury, spinal cord injury, neonatal intensive care and interventional neuroradiology.



About Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Australia is a not-for-profit and the peak body for kidney health in Australia with a vision 'to save and improve the lives of people living in Australia affected by kidney disease'.

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