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Dialysis care on wheels to hit the Gold Coast

- The Palaszczuk Government has provided \$1.6 million in funding for a mobile kidney dialysis service on the Gold Coast.
- The Big Red Kidney Bus will be the first of its kind in Queensland and will bring haemodialysis treatment closer to home for patients mid-2023.
- Currently more than 80 per cent of Gold Coast dialysis patients travel to hospital three times a week to receive treatment.

Gold Coasters with chronic kidney disease will soon have access to dialysis treatment closer to home thanks to \$1.6 million in Palaszczuk Government funding.

The Big Red Kidney Bus will be equipped with three haemodialysis spaces and start travelling throughout the Gold Coast in mid-2023.

This 18-month pilot program between Queensland Health and Kidney Health Australia will provide more accessible treatment and teach patients how to carry out dialysis at home.

The service will be the first of its kind in the state, easing the burden for the more than 80 per cent of Gold Coast patients who travel to hospital multiple times a week to receive treatment.

Tourists with chronic kidney disease will also be able to access the service, eliminating treatment barriers that often make travelling prohibitive.

Robina Lions Club strongly advocated for the service and raised \$300,000 to equip the Big Red Kidney Bus with an access ramp and dialysis equipment.

Quotes attributable to Member for Gaven Meaghan Scanlon:

“This service will make all the difference to people in our community who need it,” Minister Scanlon said.

“I’m pleased that the Palaszczuk Government has been able to support this initiative, but grateful of the extraordinary work of Robina Lions Club who have been instrumental in providing this service.

“Rather than the burden of spending hours at the hospital for treatment, the bus will bring the services Gold Coasters with chronic kidney disease need much closer to home.”

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Quotes attributable to Minister Yvette D'Ath, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services:

“We know that the number of people requiring haemodialysis on the Gold Coast is growing each year, which is why we’re proud to partner with Kidney Health Australia to provide this service,” Minister D’Ath said.

“This initiative not only provides better access to treatment for Gold Coast dialysis patients, but also empowers them to learn how to carry out treatment at home themselves.

“For tourists with chronic kidney disease, this service provides an opportunity to enjoy our iconic Gold Coast lifestyle without having to worry about finding treatment.”

Quotes attributable to Kidney Health Australia CEO, Chris Forbes:

“Kidney Health Australia is excited to be working in partnership with Gold Coast Health to support home dialysis training and expand Kidney Health Australia’s respite program into Queensland.”

“Our Big Red Kidney Bus mobile dialysis program is much loved by our kidney community as it gives them the freedom to move beyond their treating clinic and visit other parts of Australia – a freedom so many of us take for granted.

“We wish to thank the Queensland Government, Gold Coast Health and our funding partner, Robina Lions Club for making this a reality for so many people.”

Quotes attributable to Robina Lions Club Chairman, John McIntyre:

“It has been five years of sausage sizzles, raffles and fundraising efforts to get the Big Red Kidney Bus on the road,” Mr McIntyre said.

“Kidney disease does not discriminate; it affects the young through to the elderly and our aim is to provide a better quality of life for those living with this devastating disease.”

“This project has been driven by Robina Lions Club in partnership with Lions Club International, Lions Clubs across Australia and our fantastic community support.”

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Background

Haemodialysis is a process in which a machine acts as the kidneys and cleans the blood. It requires a cannula, a small tube, into a vein and can take four to five hours each treatment.

For further information contact:

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