

## Fact Sheet - Indigenous Health

# 'Yarning Kidneys'

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## Background

In 2018 the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, awarded a grant to Kidney Health Australia to undertake consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia (with the exception of the Northern Territory, as consultations have been conducted by the 'Catching Some Air Project'), to talk about what is most important to them and their kidney health.



The KHA-CARI guidelines group which involves health experts, service providers and peak bodies, is developing best practice guidelines on the "Management of CKD among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" to improve care for Indigenous Peoples living with chronic kidney disease.

KHA-CARI have also identified the importance of partnering with patients and their carers to ensure that these guidelines are created with appropriateness, effectiveness, integration and impact for quality of health outcomes.

A separate consultation process will be undertaken in New Zealand with respect to Maori and Pacific Islander Peoples.

- Almost 1 in 5 (18%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples aged over 18 years have indicators of chronic kidney disease which is twice as likely than non-Indigenous Peoples.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are four times as likely to die with chronic kidney disease as a cause of death than non-Indigenous Peoples.
- The greater prevalence of chronic kidney disease in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is due to complex health and socio-economic factors which contribute to significantly worse health outcomes.

## Aim and goals

- Undertake a targeted engagement process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples that will inform the development of new clinical guidelines.
- Seek feedback and advice on the content for "Management of CKD among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples".
- Seek feedback and advice on the opportunities for translation of "Management of CKD among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" into culturally safe consumer information, tools and education materials.

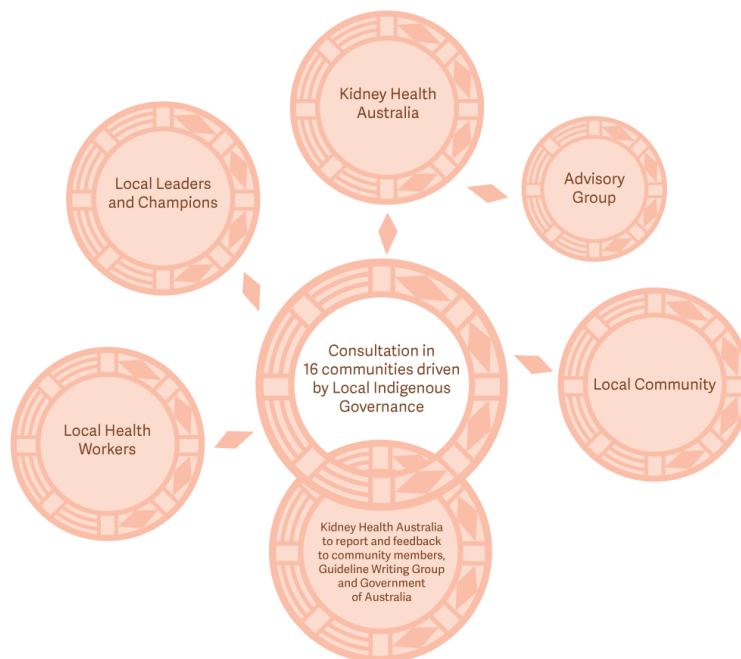
## Culturally safe approach to the consultations

Kidney Health Australia has established an advisory group to provide advice and ensure the consultations are respectful and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This group comprises of: Associate Professor Shilpa Jesudason, Advisory Group Chair, Kidney Health Australia Clinical Director (SA); Professor Alan Cass, Menzies School of Health Research (NT); Dr Martin Howell, KHA-CARI Office (NSW); Dr Jaqui Hughes, Menzies School of Health Research (NT); Dr Janet Kelly, The University of Adelaide (SA); Dr Odette Pearson, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SA); Ms Rochelle Pitt, Apunipima Cape York Health Council Limited (QLD); NACCHO Representative, Ms Jess Styles, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) (ACT).

- **Local Indigenous governance:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will be involved in every stage of the consultation, with establishment of a local consumer reference group for each site. These groups will guide the consultation, and help identify local issues and priorities.

- **Local renal champions:** Kidney Health Australia will work with local renal champions and leaders to ensure that the consultations are responsive to local needs and preferences, and that key issues raised by community members are followed up.



## Principles of the methodology<sup>1</sup>

- The methodology will be developed with each site based on local community pathways and processes with guidance from the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, local health professionals and other relevant stakeholders.
- Kidney Health Australia will work with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Ethics Committee in each jurisdiction to ensure requirements are met for the consultations.
- Outcomes of consultations will be incorporated into a report for each site, with input and final approval from the local reference group and participants.
- The report will inform the KHA-CARI Guidelines Writing Group, as they develop and write the guidelines, and will be shared with the community members, government and other relevant stakeholders to ensure maximum reach of the community voice.

<sup>1</sup> D Duff, S Jesudason, M Howell and JT Hughes. (2018). A partnership approach to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with clinical guideline development for chronic kidney disease. *The Renal Society of Australasia Journal*.

For more information or to contact the members of the advisory group, please contact Kidney Health Australia on freecall 1800 454 363 or email [IKH@kidney.org.au](mailto:IKH@kidney.org.au). Visit our website [kidney.org.au](http://kidney.org.au) to access free health literature.



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