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BIG RED KIDNEY BUS MAKES VISITING LOVED ONES POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE ON DIALYSIS

The Big Red Kidney Bus is a mobile haemodialysis unit which allows people living with kidney disease to travel away from their home and still receive life-saving haemodialysis treatment.

Kidney disease disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with almost 1 in 5 (18%) aged over 18 years having indicators of chronic kidney disease – twice as likely as non-Indigenous people.

Kidney failure is when a person's kidneys have stopped working so treatment, such as haemodialysis or a transplant, is needed to sustain life.

On average, haemodialysis patients need to have treatment for at least five hours at a time, three days a week – which can be very restricting as they need to stay close to their dialysis unit.

Kidney Health Australia's award-winning Big Red Kidney Bus program operates with clinical partners in Victoria and New South Wales to provide mobile haemodialysis services in these states, allowing people on dialysis a chance to have a holiday or visit family and friends and still receive their lifesaving treatment.

For dialysis patient and Big Red Kidney Bus user, Joel Williams, it makes a huge difference and helps break up the monotony of dialysis.

“Dialysis is like Groundhog Day. Every session is basically the same, so it's great to have a change. The Big Red Kidney Bus means I can have a break.”

The Big Red Kidney Buses are open to all Australians on hospital, satellite or home haemodialysis. The buses travel across Victoria and New South Wales, where they are located at popular holiday locations for up to six weeks at a time. They are staffed by experienced dialysis nurses and renal technicians from Monash Health in Victoria, and Royal North Shore Hospital in New South Wales.

Current/Upcoming locations:

- Dubbo, NSW: 1 April – 4 May
- Lakes Entrance, VIC: 25 February – 6 April

For more information about the Big Red Kidney Bus or to book a place, call 1800 454 363, email bigredkidneybus@kidney.org.au or visit www.kidney.org.au/bus.

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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'.

The Big Red Kidney Bus was awarded the 2015 National Disability Award for Excellence in Community Accessibility, and also won the Gold Innovative Models of Care Award at the 2015 Victorian Public Health Care Awards.



The Big Red Kidney Bus is in proud partnership with Royal North Shore Hospital in New South Wales and Monash Health in Victoria.

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