

Transplant Story: A Personal Journey

A 52 minute film following the journey of a young Aboriginal man living with kidney disease as he and his family work towards a kidney transplant.

Intended for national release, the film aims to stimulate action and discussion around issues of organ transplantation and donation within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and reduce the devastating impact of kidney disease.

We aim to increase kidney transplant rates for Indigenous Australians by 50% within 5 years.

Chronic Kidney Disease

Each year more than 13,000 Australians die with kidney failure. Aboriginal people are ten times more likely than non-indigenous people to develop severe kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant to stay alive.

For Aboriginal people, kidney disease is not a disease of the frail elderly, but a disease that affects people at the peak of their family and community lives.

A kidney transplant offers the best quality of life for a person with kidney disease.

Low Rates of Transplant in Indigenous Communities

In Australia, more than 800 kidney transplants are performed each year. Fewer than 30 are received by Indigenous Australians.

There are many reasons for low transplant rates including but not limited to the:

- Low rates of Aboriginal donors
- A large number of people on the transplant waiting list and a small donor pool
- Difficulties in communication between health professionals and Aboriginal people.



Urgently Needed Educational Resource

The story of transplantation and organ donation is complex, emotive and difficult to communicate in simple terms. This film provides a unique opportunity to develop a high-quality, appropriate and easy to use educational resource for patients and health professionals.

Funds Required:

\$268,252

Project Timeline:

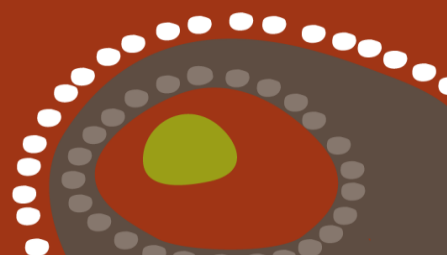
Film due for completion early 2014

For more information, please contact:

Gillian Gorham

(08) 8922 7654

gillian.gorham@menzies.edu.au



Project Goals and Benefits

The patient and his family initiated this project and they are keen to see the documentary completed. By documenting this journey as it unfolds, we hope to capture useful discussion points for the exploration of key concepts with healthcare providers and within Indigenous communities. The project team and clinicians involved acknowledge the unique nature of this opportunity and hope this resource will:

- raise awareness of organ donation and transplantation;
- identify barriers to effective communication between patients, their families and health providers;
- demonstrate the very personal impact of kidney disease on the patient and family;
- describe the treatment options and consequences of choices;
- explain the screening process for organ donors and the pathway to transplantation surgery for both recipient and donor;
- clearly illustrate the physical and psychological impact of organ donation.

Duration

The project commenced in January and will be conducted throughout 2013, guided by the clinical requirements of the participants. It is anticipated that the final product will be ready for public release in early 2014.

Budget

This project was made possible by the generosity of Amgen Australia who provided seed funding.

COST COMPONENT	AMOUNT REQUIRED
Film Shoot Costs	\$104,135
Post Production	\$59,100
Legal/Accounting/Insurance	\$41,309
Educational Resources	\$63,708
TOTAL SOUGHT	\$268,252

Critically, the documentary will form the groundwork for an educational package to guide both health workers and their patients through the various options available for treating kidney failure. These educational materials will be responsive to culture, kinship and aboriginal family values.



Project Team

Executive Producer:
Professor Alan Cass -
Director

Menzies School of Health Research - recent Awards include NSW Aboriginal Health Award for Closing The Gap through Excellence in Chronic Care 2012 & TJ Neale Award for outstanding contribution to kidney research in Australia 2013.

Film Producer & Director -
Brendan Fletcher

An experienced director & film-maker whose credits include Judith Lucy's Spiritual Journey (2011) and Mad Bastards (2010).

Menzies Project Manager
Gillian Gorham - Head Renal
Program

Menzies School of Health Research – an experienced program manager with a background in health and education.

discovery for a healthy tomorrow