

## Progress to date

### *Understanding service delivery issues*

An extensive literature review is being conducted to explore the evidence, from a national and international perspective, on the provision of health services to Indigenous people in remote locations and the impact of relocation for medical treatment. The literature, consisting of over 1000 articles, is still being analysed.

### *Understanding impact of service models*

The qualitative component of the project focuses on capturing the experiences of Aboriginal people, their family and community members who are affected by end stage kidney disease. Interviews are also being conducted with health professionals in renal services and related health services as well as social support service providers in the NT.

Interviews explore the social, emotional, cultural and financial impact of accessing the different models of dialysis care.

The project has engaged a number of Aboriginal community researchers to strengthen the capacity of the project, particularly the interpretation of the emerging themes from the interviews with Aboriginal people. More than 50 interviews have been conducted to date.

### *Understanding service development*

Working with renal clinicians and service providers, we have collated information on renal service planning and service development since 2000. The subsequent discussion paper provides a historical view of the growth in services and describes the impetus for the establishment of each dialysis model of care.

Fishbone maps developed from this work, clearly illustrate the relentless growth in demand and subsequent capacity issues over the 14 years of the study (see next page).

## The project and team

### **The Project**

The aim of the Dialysis Models of Care (DxMoC) project is to evaluate the costs and outcomes of different models of dialysis care in the NT – particularly for Indigenous people relocated for treatment. The project will consider the broader impact on government and non-government services as well as on patients, family and community.

### **Project Team**

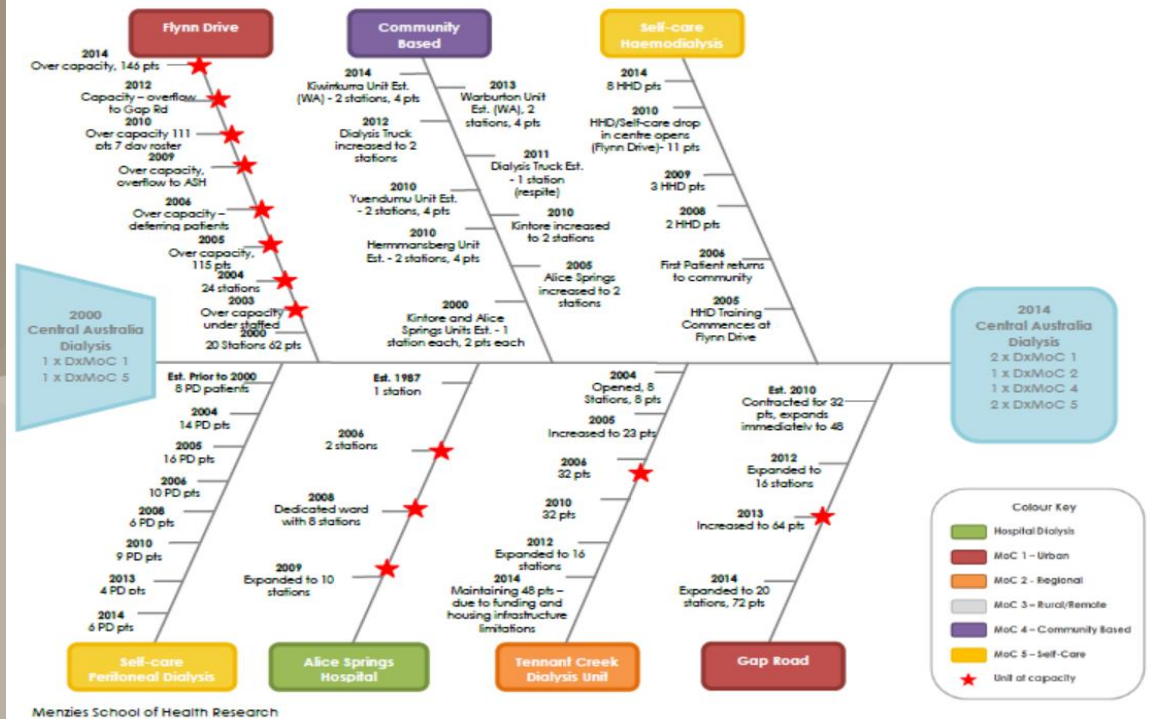
The project team have a wealth of experience in health services and have worked closely with renal clinicians and patients over many years. The project is led by Gillian Gorham, and is project managed by Kylie Tune. Samantha Togni leads the qualitative aspects working with a small team of Aboriginal community-based researchers and is supported by Georgia Robinson and Jeannie Devitt.

The team is based in Darwin and Alice Springs and meet regularly. We are always interested in hearing from people who would like to contribute to the knowledge gathering for this project.

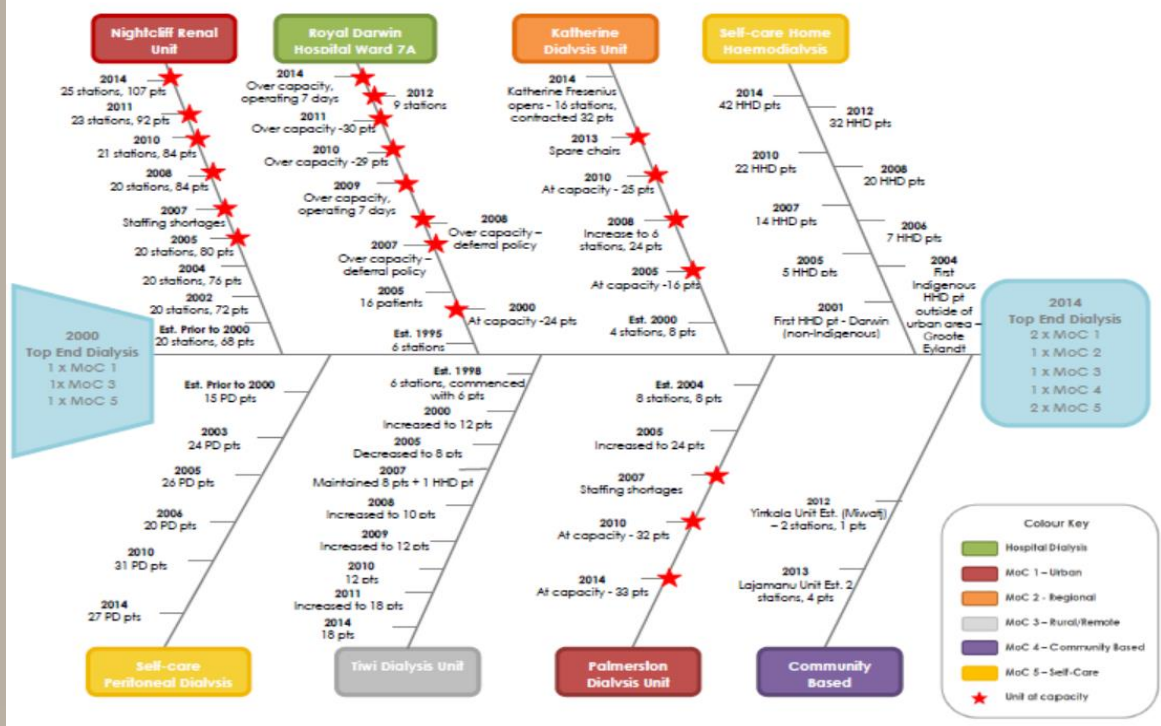
### **Key Contact:**

Project Manager, Renal Team  
Menzies School of Health Research  
Web: [www.menzies.edu.au](http://www.menzies.edu.au)  
Email: [kylie.tune@menzies.edu.au](mailto:kylie.tune@menzies.edu.au)

Dialysis Models of Care – Central Australia Service Fishbone Map



Dialysis Models of Care – Top End Service Fishbone Map



**Making sense of the data**

We continue to work with our partners for the transfer of data that will assist us to understand service utilisation and costs. We have already received some initial health data and with the recent appointment of an Epidemiologist, we hope to begin work on the analysis very soon.