

Welcome

On December 20th 2019 an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kidney Health Leadership group travelled to Canberra and met with members of the Department of Health Preventative Health and Sport Population Health Branch, and the Indigenous Health Division (see photo below).



Photo (left to right): Trudi McInnes, Lenore Dembski, Ed Huddy, Jaquelyne Hughes, Andrew Tibbits, Mel Turner.

The purpose of the meeting

- To receive updates on Commonwealth government-initiated activities to support kidney health
- To receive feedback about how the Department of Health partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the delivery of these activities.

Briefing information to support the meeting were provided by both parties (see picture page 1 and 2).

Meeting participants

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kidney Health Leadership working group included A/Professor Jaquelyne Hughes, Ms Gwen Lowah, Ms Lenore Dembski, and Ms Donisha Duff. Dr Hughes and Ms Dembski travelled to Canberra from Darwin and Ms Lowah joined via telephone. All women were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, who have expertise in renal health care service delivery, health research, policy development, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement and development.

Australian Government Department of Health representatives included Ms Trudy McInnis (Indigenous Health Division – Renal Policy), Ms Mel Turner (Indigenous Health Division – Chronic Conditions), Mr Andrew Tibbits (Indigenous Health Division – Renal Policy), and Mr Ed Huddy, Population Health and Sport Division, Preventive Health Branch.

We agreed it was important to share the Department of Health activity updates with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kidney health community. This update of Commonwealth activities for kidney health, featured on page 2, was provided by Mr Huddy.

Disclosure Statement: A Hot North Development Award supported travel and accommodation for Ms Dembski and Dr Hughes. Dr Hughes was supported by an NHMRC Fellowship (#1092576), and Ms Lowah was supported by Top End Renal Service.

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<http://www.menzies.edu.au/CatchingSomeAir>

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Watching the [Catching Some Air Final Report Video](#)

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National Strategic Action Plan for Kidney Disease

- Identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a priority population with specific actions to be taken to improve kidney health outcomes.
- Will be supported by a document which includes all the reference materials that informed the Action Plan, and will include the full [Catching Some Air Policy](#), as agreed with Kidney Health Australia (KHA).
- Is linked to a competitive grants process, which opened on 3rd January 2020 until 13 February 2020, advertised through [Grants Connect](#). It appears the application process lacked targeted advertising to, or facilitation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' development of regionally specific kidney health action.
- Applications will be assessed by the Department of Health Chronic Disease team, who will partner with the Indigenous Health Division to ensure appropriate expertise regarding Indigenous kidney health is applied to the review and awarding process.
- KHA is working with the Minister's Office on the official launch of the Action Plan in early 2020.

Long Term National Health Plan

[Australia's National Health Plan](#) was published in August 2019. The plan includes a 10-year Primary Health Care Plan, National Preventive Health Strategy, and Medical Research Future Fund investment plan.

Ms Chris Jeacle is the contact person for this program and is contactable by (t) 02 6289 7125 or email Chris.Jeacle@health.gov.au.

KHA-CARI Indigenous Clinical Care Guidelines

Kidney Health Australia received funding from the Indigenous Australians' Health Program to complete national consultations to inform the KHA-CARI Indigenous Renal Clinical Care Guidelines.

The Catching Some Air project (funded by Lowitja Institute) completed consultations during 2018, for these guidelines in Thursday Island, Darwin and Alice Springs. The Catching Some Air final report, policy document and final report video were reviewed in the meeting briefing pack (see photo page 1).

End Stage Renal and Remote Working Group

There is a working group of the Northern Territory Indigenous Health Partnerships Forum, which is composed by the Commonwealth government, the Northern Territory Government, and AMSANT. Ms Ameina Brunker secretariat@amsant.org.au supports this working group.

Renal Health RoadMap

On 8th March 2019, Health Ministers agreed at the meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), to use roadmaps for renal health, eye health, ear health and rheumatic heart disease as a framework to deliver collaborative policies and

programs. Ministers referred the roadmaps to Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) to progress.

In October 2019, AHMAC agreed to establish a time limited working group with membership from each jurisdiction to progress the roadmaps. AHMAC also agreed that

secretariat support would be provided by the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth have written to AHMAC members seeking nominations for the working group to progress the Roadmap.

It is anticipated the first meeting of the working group will be held in February 2020 however this is dependent on the availability of members.

