

Statewide Clinical Networks



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Statewide Renal Clinical Network

Message from the Co-Chairs

2020 has been an historic year for change and challenges, providing many opportunities for innovation in how we provide care and in how we work together. The Renal Network, together with Advancing Kidney Care 2026, has supported the state over COVID-19 and supported translation of learnings to our evolving new normal and to Network priorities for the new year.

This issue of the Communique highlights an exciting new Network education working group endeavour, notes achievements of Network working groups such as the publication of an updated adult peritoneal dialysis peritonitis clinical pathway and dialysis access referral form, and shines a spotlight on the Cairns and Hinterland Renal Service and their support of haemodialysis in community during COVID-19. We also acknowledge the great works in progress by the Kidney Genomics and Chronic Kidney Disease Footcare Workgroups, and look forward to providing updates on these in future editions. Additional outcomes are noted in the AKC2026 update. The Network looks forward to working with AKC2026 further in 2021 to progress initiatives that support the delivery of kidney care across the state.

We mark farewell to Steering Committee members Dr's Shilpa Jesudason and Pradeep Mishra, thanking them for their support, and welcome Dr Gary Chang as our incoming GP representative. We also introduce, with a warm welcome, our new coordinator Samantha Daly, who joins the Network in the New Year.

Wishing everyone good health and the Joys of the Season.

Prof Keshwar Baboolal
A/Prof Sree Krishna Venuthurupalli
Co-Chairs, SReCN

Season's Greetings

NEW: Statewide Renal Clinical Network Education Development Working Group

The purpose of the Statewide Renal Education Development Working Group (SREG for short) is to serve as a central point for the development and delivery of consistent and sustainable standardised renal educational materials across Queensland for clinicians, patients, carers and their families.

SREG will link with the Clinical Skills Development Service (CSDS). CSDS are specialists in providing clinical education through multiple learning solutions (on-line, face-to-face and augmented reality/virtual reality simulation).

The Statewide Renal Clinical Network guides quality improvement reform, emphasising evidence-based practice and clinical consensus to guide implementation, optimisation and provision of high quality patient focused health care.

Working group membership was finalised in November, following a highly responsive expressions of interest process, resulting in broad representation across disciplines, including consumer, First Nation and regional, rural and remote representation. The working group's first meeting is planned for the 17th of December 2020.



Updated adult peritoneal dialysis peritonitis clinical pathway

The Steering Committee has endorsed an updated Adult Peritoneal Dialysis Peritonitis Clinical Pathway, as reviewed by the Peritonitis Working Group. This group was ably led by Sandy Lawrence, who has thanked all working group members and acknowledged input and support provided from our Princess Alexandra Hospital colleagues.

This pathway is now available on the Queensland Health renal clinical pathways site [here](#). The Network plans to commence a review and update of the paediatric peritoneal dialysis peritonitis clinical pathway in the new year.

Updated dialysis access referral form

The Steering Committee has also endorsed an updated dialysis access referral form, as reviewed by the Renal Vascular Access Working Group. This group was adeptly led by Leanne Brown, who has thanked all working group members. This form is now available on the Queensland Health clinical prioritisation criteria (CPC) Vascular site [here](#).

Introducing Samantha Daly, 2021 incoming Renal Network Coordinator

I have worked for Queensland Health for a number of years, with a focus on patient safety and quality and clinical practice improvement. Over my career, I have worked in various hospitals and more recently in policy and project positions. The common theme across these roles is my passion for working with clinicians to support them in delivering the best outcomes and experiences for patients. I have qualifications in Health Information Management, Linguistics and Audiology. I am Brisbane-based, but have spent a few years living in Central Queensland which provided me with a first-hand experience of accessing health services in non-metropolitan locations. I look forward learning and understanding the complexities of delivering renal services and getting to know you all.

What books are you currently reading or have recently read? All Our Shimmering Skies (Trent Dalton)

What superhero villain power would you most like to have? Mind control

If you could invite any three people to a dinner party, who would they be and why? Poh Ling Yeow, Hugh Jackman, Annabel Crabb (for their obvious talents, but also because I think they would be great story tellers)

What are you currently binge watching? Schitt's Creek, The Bureau

What motto do you like to live by? "Look famous, be legendary, appear complex, act easy, radiate presence, travel light, seem a dream, prove real"

Favourite place in the world? Copenhagen

If your friends had to describe you in 3 words, what would they be? Kind, thoughtful, organised.

Finish this sentence: I am most happy when.....I'm at the beach.



AKC2026 News

Spotlight on haemodialysis in community during COVID-19: supporting the people of Yarrabah

New funding to support dialysis

The October AKC2026 Collaborative meeting was held as \$8.6 million in annual funds was released to kidney services across the state to support dialysis care. AKC2026 worked with Hospital and Health Services to identify local solutions which will provide access to dialysis care for more than 140 additional people. This funding is expected to support employment of more than 40 new staff. AKC2026 is pleased to be able to support kidney services in their delivery of patient care.

To find out more about AKC2026, please visit our website [here](#).

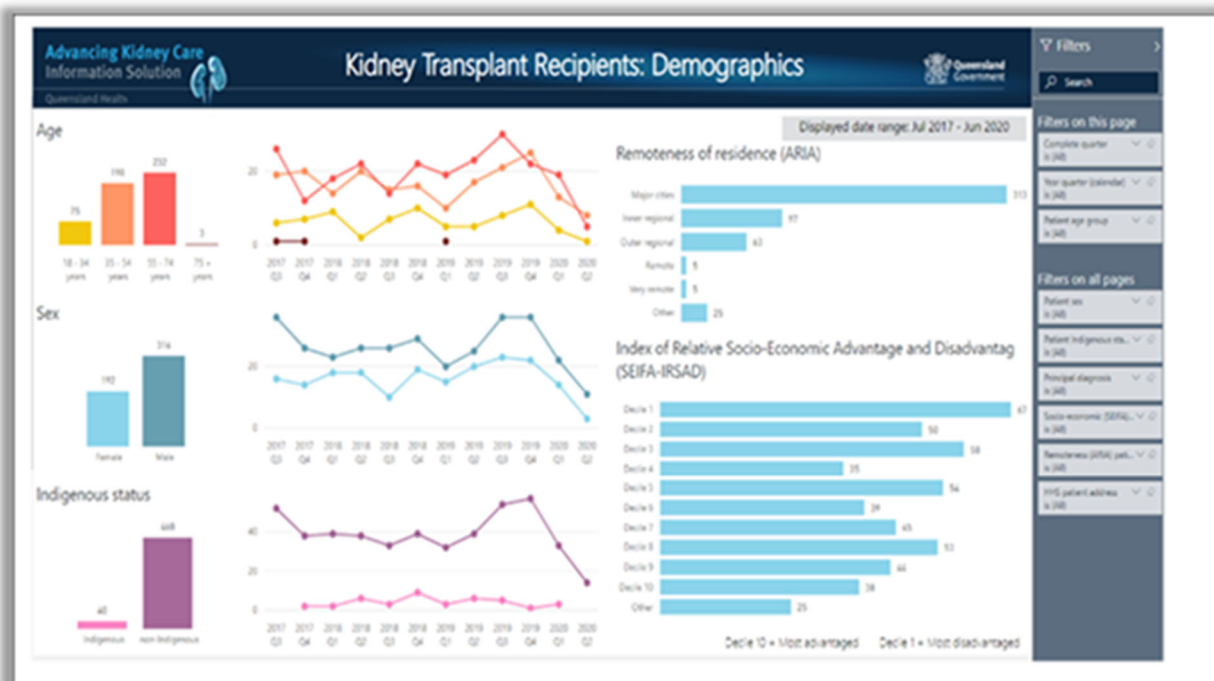
AKC2026 Information Solution

The AKC2026 Information Stream has delivered the complete first stage of the Advancing Kidney Care Information Solution (AKCIS). It takes data that is routinely collected by health services and collates it to derive summaries and profiles of our kidney patients and services.

This first set of reports on patients with acute kidney injuries, kidney transplants and those on dialysis is now live. These reports are available to all Queensland Health staff, clinical and non-clinical, so please click here if you would like to apply for access.

AKCIS is co-designed with staff working in our public hospital kidney services and relevant departmental teams, and the information presented is based on needs specified by clinicians and consumers, such as the demographics of Queensland kidney transplant recipients below.

More information about AKC2026 and AKCIS can be found here. The team is also keen to hear any questions, with comments about AKCIS welcome. Please email: AKC2026IS@health.qld.gov.au.



Spotlight on haemodialysis in community during COVID-19: supporting the people of Yarrabah

The Cairns and Hinterland Renal Service has long supported the people of Yarrabah who need haemodialysis (HD).

Yarrabah is a small town with a population of approximately 2,600 people, an hours' drive south east of Cairns. Originally inhabited by the Gungganyji people, other regional groups (particularly Yidinji) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were removed to a mission established in Yarrabah from 1892. In the late 1960s the missions were abolished, and the first Yarrabah Community Council was established.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak the Federal Minister for Health made a Determination that included strict travel restrictions applying to designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, including Yarrabah.

At the time of the Determination, there were 16 Yarrabah residents who received HD - eight in Community and eight who travelled by bus to Cairns three times a week. The restrictions had the potential to impact both life and access to dialysis for the eight Yarrabah residents who travelled to access HD in Cairns. It potentially meant they would have had to semi-permanently relocate away from their community, their family and their commitments, because they couldn't serve the 14-day quarantine requirement each time they dialysed.

“The renal team emphatically felt that being displaced from community and family would have significant effect on the wellbeing of their clients and efforts needed to be made to avoid this wherever possible” Luke Croker, Nursing Director, Cairns and Hinterland HHS.

The Renal team, Dr's Murty Mantha and Shyam Dheda, Fred “Karen” Griffiths and Luke Croker, in collaboration with the Chairperson of the Yarrabah local government area and the local Human Biosecurity Officer, implemented a solution, enabling staff to travel into community. The Nurses and health workers providing dialysis rapidly adjusted their working arrangements so all 16 Yarrabah patients could remain in community, essentially doubling the HD shifts available. This has been supported by staff from the Smithfield Dialysis Unit who picked up extra shifts to support the Yarrabah staff.

Yarrabah dialysis patients have said that this support of their community over COVID-19 has “minimised travel time and given us comfort in a familiar surrounding” and “dialysing in [my] community lets us live closer to a normal life”.

The service would like to acknowledge staff: Katherine Mairu CNC Yarrabah, Ariel Angeles CN Yarrabah, Robyn Wise RN, Sam Smith RN, Gary Janke Advanced Health Care Worker, Deslie Dempsey Advanced Health Care Worker, and Louise McMullen RN Smithfield, and give a Special mention to Paul Munn, Manager of Primary Health Care, and Sue Andrews, CEO from Gurriny Yealumucka, who work collaboratively with the dialysis team to support patients with transportation needs and shared-care arrangements.

Picture: (clockwise from top left) patients Maude Hastie, Jennifer Miller, Mina Andrew; Yarrabah dialysis unit staff Robyn Wise, Deslie Dempsey and Katherine Mairu; Yarrabah clinical leads Fred Griffiths, Dr Murty Mantha, Dr Shyam Dheda



Steering Committee

Co-Chair: Prof Keshwar Baboolal

Consultant Nephrologist and Executive Director,
Internal Medicine Services, Royal Brisbane and
Women's Hospital, Metro North HHS

Co-Chair: A/Prof Sree Krishna Venuthurupalli

Consultant Nephrologist, West Moreton
Nephrology Services, Ipswich Hospital,
West Moreton HHS

Ms Carla Scuderi

Pharmacist, Royal Brisbane and Women's
Hospital, Metro North HHS

Dr Leanne Brown

Nephrology Nurse Practitioner, Weipa,
Torres and Cape HHS

Ms Sarah Jensen

Podiatrist / Project Officer,
The Prince Charles Hospital, Metro North HHS

Ms Liz Clark

Senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Liaison Officer, Cairns Hospital,
Cairns and Hinterland HHS

Ms Caroline Sommer

Nurse Unit Manager, Cairns Private Hospital,
Cairns and Hinterland HHS

Dr Roy Cherian

Staff Specialist, Mackay Base Hospital,
Mackay HHS

Ms Rachel Olivia James

Nurse Unit Manager, Mackay Base Hospital,
Mackay HHS

Ms Helen Mees

Consumer Representative

Dr Gary Chang

GPwSI (CKD) Representative

Ms Catherine McFarlane

A/Advanced Renal Dietitian, Sunshine Coast
University Hospital, Sunshine Coast HHS

Ms Sandra Lawrence McCabe

Clinical Nurse, Renal Home Therapies, Southport
Health Precinct, Gold Coast HHS

Dr Shahadat Hossain

Staff Nephrologist, Bundaberg Hospital,
Wide Bay HHS

Ms Christine Lynn

Social Worker, Townsville Hospital,
Townsville HHS

Ms Bronwyn Hayes

Renal Transplant Coordinator, Cairns Hospital,
Cairns and Hinterland HHS

Dr Jason Jenkins

Executive Director, Surgery Stream / Director
Vascular Surgery, Royal Brisbane and Women's
Hospital and The Prince Charles Hospital,
Metro North HHS

Dr Vishwas Raghunath

Consultant Nephrologist, Renal Service,
Ipswich Hospital, West Moreton HHS

Ms Kim-Leigh Fowler

Nurse Educator, Gold Coast Hospital,
Gold Coast HHS

Dr Zaw Thet

Senior Staff Specialist, Rockhampton Hospital,
Central Queensland HHS

Dr Carolyn Van Eps

Consultant Nephrologist, Department of
Nephrology, Princess Alexandra Hospital,
Metro South HHS

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Clinical Excellence Queensland

a division of Queensland Health
Queensland Government
15 Butterfield Street Herston Qld 4006

Clinical_Networks@health.qld.gov.au

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