

Advancing Kidney Care 2026



April 2021 Communique

AKC2026 Collaborative - Chair's Message

There is nothing permanent except change". *Heraclitus*

Our April Collaborative meeting did indeed reflect this theme of constructive change with the Collaborative considering transitioning of its approach beyond June 2021. Agenda items also included 2021 priorities, updates on the AKC2026 program and Government renal election commitments, plus funding and data modelling for dialysis provision and opportunities to support improved integration between Primary and Kidney Specialist care. Highlights of the meeting are included below.

This April Communique also has a 'special focus' on Central Queensland's model for providing haemodialysis closer to home in Woorabinda, and a spotlight on the recent Metro North Kidney Supportive Care Symposium, which was sponsored by AKC2026.

Kind regards

Lisa Davies Jones

Chair, AKC2026 Collaborative



AKC2026 program update

- The AKC2026 public-facing [website](#) and QHEPS page have been updated to include a refreshed layout and content including the addition of 'funded projects' and 'patient stories and related programs'.
- Additional items discussed at the April 2021 AKC2026 Collaborative meeting included:
 - an overview of alternative funding models including bundled payment methods and how they work. This discourse led to opportunities to support State Treasury considerations in relation to the Productivity Commission report on care for chronic conditions;
 - an update on the AKC Information Solution Set 2 deliverables;
 - existing application and initiatives which support chronic kidney disease integrated care;
 - an update of Queensland Government election commitments of \$27.8 million for additional dialysis capacity in rural and regional areas, informed from the AKC2026 regional, rural and remote dialysis work undertaken in early 2020. Clinical Excellence Queensland is working with the Capital and Asset Services Branch and relevant Hospital and Health Services to progress individual projects;
 - an update on the South East Queensland satellite hospitals election commitments. The Department of Health is working with the four Hospital and Health Services who are the recipients of these seven satellite hospitals. This includes the consideration of additional dialysis capacity

Spotlight: Metro North HHS Kidney Supportive Care Symposium

Sponsored by AKC2026, utilising part of the \$50,000 first prize from the 2019 Queensland Health Awards for Excellence; Minister's Award for Excellence, the event was held on March 12th at the RBWH Education Centre and was attended by over 100 in-person and 60 on-line attendees.

The event was well-received, with 81% of attendees rating the Symposium as very good with comments including It was interesting, thought provoking and very well organised! and great day. Highlights were noted as Networking and meeting fellow colleagues and the carer experience. The Welcome address was provided by Lisa Davies Jones and Close by Prof Keshwar Baboolal.

Images L>R: 1. Panel discussion (Dr Nashringi Weir, Laura Austin, and Dr Kirsten Hepburn with Pauline Walter, AKC2026 Consumer Representative). 2. Aurora Hodges, PEPA Manager (Qld), AKC2026 project team members: Tarna Komaric-Brooks, Cristina Mears, Ally Kelly and Anne Salisbury.





The Central Queensland Kidney Service has an established pro-active alliance with the township of Woorabinda. Woorabinda is located in Central Queensland, 170 km south west of Rockhampton and is situated on the traditional lands of the Wadja Wadja/Yungulu Aboriginal people.

In 2008 funding was received to establish a Self-Care Dialysis Unit to support those patients who were able to manage their own dialysis treatment independently. In 2015 this facility was renovated for the dual purpose of self-care and satellite dialysis, in partnership with the Woorabinda Multipurpose Health Service. This service has been very successful in supporting select patients in accessing dialysis closer to home, with one 'Woori' patient dialysing independently since the first opening of this unit, 13 years ago.



*Woorabinda dialysis unit artwork
by David Langlo*



With receipt of recurrent funds facilitated by AKC2026 in

September 2020, the Woorabinda satellite dialysis service has been able to further expand to assist more patients in Community. Funding has specifically supported additional nursing staff, allowing the service to go from three days a week to six when required, and most importantly, supported the establishment of a new position in the renal Indigenous Health workforce.

Jenny Anderson, Nurse Unit Manager of the Central Queensland Renal Service, noted that "outreach dialysis is part of the services' staff development plan and all staff who perform a clinical rotation in Community Dialysis are expected to travel to Woorabinda as part of (our) 'Grow Our Own' workforce plan. The funding to support expansion of this model of care to include Indigenous Health Workers has strengthened our ability to provide support to this (Woorabinda) community."



Wayne, the Indigenous Health Worker funded through AKC2026, says "in my role I strive to build a strong rapport and close connection with all Indigenous persons I come in contact with and support them to be empowered to make decisions regarding their own health. I have found that.....two of the biggest hurdles Indigenous people face is understanding jargon that is communicated to them and knowing how to navigate the health system so they are able to access the support and treatment that they require".

Benefits of the expanded service have already been many, from the release of dialysis capacity within the primary dialysis unit based in Rockhampton, to direct patient benefit including the saving of over 1,000km per week of travel for each patient who previously needed to access dialysis in Rockhampton.



1. Wayne Broome,
Renal Indigenous

Royce and Mervyn, patients who are now dialysing back on Country, say that (Royce) "it means we are closer to home with our family....the distance from here to Rocky is killing - especially in wintertime" and (Mervyn) "it mainly saves us the trip with driving and the cost of fuel. Especially in wintertime it's freezing. Especially for me when I have to drive up alone by myself".

Health Worker
2. Mervyn Carbine
3. Rosita Tily

A key feature of the
Woorabinda satellite

dialysis service are the beautiful paintings on the inside and outside of the unit, painted by a local Woorabinda man David Langlo, nephew of one of the patients. Patients who access the service also take great pride in their unit and maintain a rose garden at the front of the building to remember and honour those who have lost their lives to kidney disease.



Memorial roses and artwork by David Langlo

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