

Kidney Health New Zealand

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To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Mary Cleary-Lyons, Director National Clinical Networks		
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Proactive Release:	This title is not proposed by Health NZ for proactive release		

Contact for further discussion

Name	Position	Phone	1st contact
Dr Leanne Te Karu	Co-Lead for the National Renal Clinical Network		x
Dr Andrew Henderson	Co-Lead for the National Renal Clinical Network		

Attachments

Appendix 1: Biography of attendees

About the meeting

Purpose	You are meeting with Madi Keay, General Manager at Kidney Health New Zealand and David Shearer, Board Chair of Kidney Health New Zealand. They would like to discuss community initiatives to detect kidney disease early and other initiatives to address increase in chronic kidney disease.
Date	Thursday 23 October 2023
Time	11:50am – 12:10pm
Venue	Your office
Attendees	Madi Keay, General Manager at Kidney Health NZ David Shearer, Chair of Kidney Health NZ [Note, biographies are attached as Appendix 1]
Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora officials	Dr Leanne Te Karu, Co-Lead for the National Renal Clinical Network Dr Andrew Henderson, Co-Lead for the National Renal Clinical Network
Media	No media expected
Talking points	

Background and context

Kidney Health NZ

1. Kidney Health New Zealand (KHNZ) is a non-profit organisation originally established in 1979 as the National Kidney Foundation of New Zealand. It adopted its current name in 2008. KHNZ is one of the two major kidney disease charities in New Zealand, the other one being the Kidney Society¹.
2. KHNZ plays a vital and active role in improving kidney health across the country, key responsibilities include:

¹ You met with the Kidney Society on 14 August to discuss dialysis capacity challenges in Counties Manukau (as well as across wider Auckland) and ways to facilitate the Kidney Society's unique, potentially ready-to-go solution for a new dialysis facility in the community. Health NZ officials Vanessa Thornton, GDO Counties Manukau, and Chris Hood, Clinical Director Medicine, attended the meeting [HNZ00091049 refers].

- a) Educating the public and healthcare professionals about the symptoms of kidney disease;
 - b) Providing resources and information to help patients manage and treat kidney disease;
 - c) Coordinating, advocating for, and – where possible – funding research focused on the prevention, early detection and cure of kidney disease;
 - d) Promoting organ and tissue donation for transplantation;
 - e) Liaising with and supporting patient support groups throughout New Zealand.
3. Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) has a long-standing relationship with KHNZ and has collaborated on various initiatives, including the dialysis capacity report, improving transplantation, consumer and whānau surveys, and patient information leaflets

Chronic Kidney Disease

4. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a long-term condition where the kidneys are damaged and over time lose their ability to filter blood effectively. Kidney failure significantly impacts life expectancy, a patient's ability to participate in daily activities (including employment), the participation of their wider family, and imposes substantial costs on the health system due to dialysis treatment.
5. The number of people living with kidney failure in New Zealand continues to increase. In 2023, there were 3,200 patients receiving treatment with dialysis and 2,374 patients living with a kidney transplant. This was a 13% increase compared with 2019, with a similar increase in both patients on dialysis and those who have undergone a kidney transplant.
6. The key driver of CKD is diabetes, with diabetic kidney disease being the cause of kidney failure in 50% of patients starting dialysis. There are significant inequities in the incidence of kidney failure, with Māori and Pacific peoples having three-time and five-times higher rates of kidney failure, respectively, than the non-Māori non-Pacific population in New Zealand.

Discussion

Overview of current community-based initiatives and opportunities

7. Currently, there is no formal screening program for CKD in New Zealand, except for individuals with diabetes. A pathway is being developed for populations at increased risk, including those with hypertension, cardiovascular disease, features of Cardio-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) syndrome, and individuals of Māori, Pacific and South Asian descent. This will involve both blood and urine tests to detect early signs of kidney dysfunction.
8. There are established treatments for CKD which reduce the risk of End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD) requiring dialysis which is both costly (~115k per patient per annum) and has poor quality of life outcomes. Treatment of CKD also reduces the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, stroke disease and peripheral vascular disease, and offers a significant return on investment in overall health spend.
9. Health NZ is currently developing a CKD dashboard that integrates prescribing and laboratory data from primary care. This dashboard aims to generate actionable insights to better target interventions and improve health outcomes for people with CKD.

10. Data from the Northern and Te Waipounamu regions have already been incorporated into the dashboard. However, onboarding data from the Te Manawa Taki and Central regions remains ongoing due to the increased complexity of data mapping in these areas.
11. To ensure the dashboard is effective and reliable, additional resources are required to:
 - a) Validate the data;
 - b) Develop key performance indicators (KPIs);
 - c) Support continuous monitoring and improvement of CKD management across the health system.
12. At present, there are small pockets of initiatives in the CKD space, predominantly in early identification of patients who might be at risk. There is currently limited capacity in Primary Care to provide the targeted data-driven joined up care that is required to address the population needs to stem the increasing number of patients with CKD and ESKD.

Appendix 1: Biographies of Kidney Health NZ attendees



Madi Keay, General Manager

Madi began working in community funding after completing her economics degree.

Through her Māori and Indigenous Studies degree and Masters of Sustainable Development programmes, she deepened her understanding of Te Ao Māori, international indigenous frameworks for resource allocation and the principles of sustainable development.



David Shearer, Board Chair

David has extensive experience working in management and governance across commercial, not-for-profit, government and education organisations. He owns two small businesses with his wife Catherine and is a business advisor with Prime Strategies Group, a Member of the Institute of Directors and serve on the boards of Workbridge and Diabetes New Zealand.

David was born with obstructive uropathy and has chronic kidney disease stage 3. He has been a regular consumer of Canterbury's renal services for the last fifty or so years.

Serving on the Kidney Health New Zealand Board is a privilege and an opportunity to apply his mission - connecting people and organisations to ideas and opportunities, so they grow, thrive and positively impact our community.