

“The Establishment of the National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce”

Abstract

Introduction:

In response to the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand’s Performance Report, “Improving Access to and Outcomes of Kidney Transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Australia”, the Australian Government established a National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) in July 2019. The NIKTT is responsible for driving the development and implementation of initiatives that target knowledge and service delivery gaps, facilitating improved access to the kidney transplant waiting list for Indigenous patients. Membership of the NIKTT is multidisciplinary, including Indigenous kidney community members, academics, policymakers and healthcare professionals.

Method:

Over the next 12 months the NIKTT will implement a range of initiatives as part of three key focus areas:

1. Enhance data collection and reporting;
2. Pilot initiatives to improve patient equity and access; and
3. Evaluate cultural bias initiatives.

To achieve this, the NIKTT will partner with various stakeholders including the ANZDATA registry, renal units and cultural bias subject matter experts.

Results:

NIKTT initiatives are still in the development and implementation stages and results are not yet available. Once implemented, initiatives will be evaluated on a 6-monthly basis; findings will inform the NIKTT’s reports to the Commonwealth, including a National Indigenous Transplantation Strategy which will guide discussions at the COAG Health Council about making an ongoing commitment to improving transplant outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Conclusion:

The NIKTT is the first national body to be specifically tasked with addressing inequities that affect Indigenous Australians’ access to the kidney transplant wait-list. It is hoped that the NIKTT’s work over the next 12 months will not only bring about improved outcomes for Indigenous patients with end-stage kidney disease, but also catalyse increased investment in this issue from state and federal governments.