

MEDIA RELEASE

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Health workers join forces to combat kidney disease

HEALTH workers from across the South Burnett are coming together to help address the growing incidence of chronic kidney disease in their communities.

Staff from Kingaroy Hospital's renal unit have joined with Kidney Health Australia and Amgen Nephrology to present education sessions for health workers, general practitioners and practice nurses next month.

The sessions are aimed at providing up-to-date information about renal disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, how to manage chronic kidney disease and the importance of diabetes management.

Information about nutrition, medication management, self care and resources to support clients will also been presented.

A more detailed evening workshop specifically for General Practitioners will be lead by Toowoomba Hospital nephrologist Dr Sree Krishna Venuthurupalli, who will speak on the management of chronic kidney disease in General Practice.

"Statistics show that almost one in five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 18 had indicators of chronic kidney disease," Kingaroy Hospital Renal Unit nurse practitioner Andrea Rolfe said.

"Even in the general population in the South Burnett, it is estimated that one in every 10 people have indicators of chronic kidney disease, such as reduced kidney function and/or protein in the urine.

"Sharing up-to-date information about the management and treatment of this disease with local health workers is just one way we can help address this health problem."

As part of the activities, Ms Rolfe and Kylie Anderson, Diabetes Nurse, along with representatives from Kidney Health Australia, will visit Cherbourg State School to provide some fun diabetes and kidney education sessions for the children.

"A highlight of the day will be a visit from Kidney Health Australia's 'Billy the Kidney'," Ms Rolfe said.

The education sessions and workshop are aimed at doctors, nurses and health workers interested in the prevention and management of chronic kidney disease. The sessions will be held on Thursday 3 December at various locations across the South Burnett.

Ends

Photo caption: Staff from the Kingaroy Hospital's Renal Unit will be spreading the word next month about kidney disease.

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