



MEDIA RELEASE

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National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) Welcomes New National Strategy on Organ Donation and Transplantation

The NIKTT Secretariat warmly welcomes the release of the *National Strategy for Organ Donation, Retrieval, and Transplantation* by the Australian Government. This newly endorsed Strategy provides a framework for addressing the long-standing disparities in access to life-saving organ transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, with a dedicated focus on equitable access to kidney care.

The Strategy, which highlights the need for fair access to kidney transplants for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and those in rural and remote areas, aligns closely with NIKTT's mission to close the gap in kidney health outcomes. The new commitments outlined within the Strategy are a positive step forward, and NIKTT emphasises the importance of robust implementation plans to ensure these priorities lead to tangible improvements for Communities.

We look forward to working with Community alongside the Organ and Tissue Authority, the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand, the Department of Health, and State and Territory governments to support implementation of the Strategy and ensure the priorities translate into measurable change. Community-led and co-designed plans will be critical to guide and evaluate progress, particularly around how to enact, evaluate, monitor, and sustain culturally safe care pathways.

The NIKTT remains committed to ensuring that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are at the forefront of kidney transplantation care, supporting sustainable and equitable improvements in health outcomes. We welcome this Strategy's goals and look forward to a collaborative, action-focused approach to bring these recommendations to life.

Quotes Attributable to NIKTT Co-Chair, Professor Jaquelyne Hughes

"This strategy marks an important milestone in Australia's journey toward health equity. We know the barriers to accessing kidney transplantation are steep for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and we are committed to working in partnership with governments and Community to change this."

"Through the NIKTT's leadership and the new national Strategy, we have a clear pathway to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a stronger voice and greater access to kidney transplantation services. Together, we can create a system that respects, listens to, and supports Community to lead change."

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About the NIKTT

The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) is dedicated to improving kidney transplantation access and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Through strategic partnerships, community engagement, and culturally safe care initiatives, NIKTT works to close the gap in kidney transplantation equity across Australia.