

# Aboriginal Kidney Care Together Improving Outcomes Now AKTION2 Newsletter

June Edition, 2023



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Kurna people on whose lands we live and work. We pay respect to their spiritual and physical connections to land, seas, skies and waterways where cultural practices are strong and thriving today as always.

We acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from your respective lands, who live and work on Kurna Yarta, and wish to acknowledge the allies who walk alongside us. Nangha Nina AKtion2 family!



# MESSAGE FROM THE AKTION2 TEAM



Welcome to the June edition of our AKtion2 monthly newsletter, first things first:

1. Spirit Check!  
Take a moment to ground yourself and acknowledge and invite 🙌Miwi into your space.
2. I also invite you to take a moment of silence and remembrance for our Kidney Warriors who are no longer with us. May their legacy live on through our works.

We won't keep you for long in this intro as the stories and pictures will speak for themselves of some of the epic adventures that we've had in the AKtion2 space over the past month.

Winter has well and truly settled in now and our health system will no doubt feel the bite of the cold weather as the health and wellbeing of people come under further risk in cold and flu season on top of covid still in the mix. So please ensure that you rug up and stay warm and take care of Elders, after all it is that time of year where NAIDOC 2023 is almost upon us and the theme this year is: **For Our Elders**

We encourage you all to get along to a NAIDOC event this year and check out the many events that our communities work hard to put together.

You know the drill famz, grab a cuppa, enjoy the read and keep up to date with how the AKtion2 movement is continuing to create change in the kidney world. ❤️💚💜

#### Language Translations:

- 🙌 Hello, how are you? In Adnyamathanha
- 🙌 Spirit in Ngarrindjeri



#### Newsletter Editors

*Kim O'Donnell | Rhanee Lester | Kynesha Temple-Varco*

The AKtion Project Team consists of the following deadly members:

#### Project Leads

*Dr Kim O'Donnell  
Assoc. Professor Janet Kelly*

#### Project Co-ordinator

*Penny Clough*

#### Chief Investigators

*Nari Sinclair  
Kelli Owen  
Rhanee Lester  
Samantha Bateman  
Josee' Lavoie*

#### Research Assistants

*Kynesha Temple-Varcoe  
Alyssa Cormick  
Tahlee Blade-Stevenson  
Elizabeth Rix*



# AKtion Out!

# THE PENNY HAS DROPPED FOR AKTION2



Penny Clough has been travelling around rural South Australia. She was working on the dialysis truck. Communities are flooded with rain and Penny is currently on her way back to Adelaide.



## AKTION2 PROJECT TEAM: WHICH WAY?!

The Lowitja Institute 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 11-13 June in Cairns, Queensland.

The AKtion2 Project Team made an outstanding impact this year at the Lowitja Institute Conference in 2023. The following presentations and flyers were delivered by the Team:

1. **Health Journey Mapping: implementation of the tools into practice (Workshop)**  
Tahlee Stevenson, A/ Prof Janet Kelly, Dr Kim O'Donnell (The University of Adelaide Nursing School)
2. **Aboriginal community involvement in local kidney care and national guideline development (Poster)**  
Kelli Nari & Janet Tahlee
3. **Codesigning Health Journey Mapping Tools and resources for culturally safe healthcare (Poster)**  
Tahlee Stevenson (The University of Adelaide Nursing School)

## KEEPING UP WITH AKTION2

### A Message from Aktion2 Co- Leads Janet and Kim



4. **Blak Sisters keeping Spirit strong on our journeys with chronic kidney disease (CKD) (Presentation)**  
Rhaneé Lester (The University of Adelaide) and Kelli Owen (NIKT)
5. **Decolonising First Nations Chronic Disease (CKD) from Australian First Nations women's' perspectives (Presentation)**  
Dr Kim O'Donnell (The University of Adelaide and Flinders University) and Kelli Owen (The University of Adelaide and SAHMRI)
6. **What data do we collect and why? Co designing digital resources that help tell our stories (Presentation)**  
Dr Michelle Sweet (Menzies School of Health Research) Kelli Owen (The University of Adelaide)
7. **Improving the journey to kidney transplantation: Patient Navigator programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with kidney failure (Presentation)**  
Kelli Owen, Sam Bateman (National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce)

We're half way through AKtion2's five-year NHMRC funded project and tracking well. Janet and Kim met with Marie Fugaro, (Financial Accountant Superstar) early this week, who guided us through our budget and explained financial jargon; where and how we shift funding to ensure we stay on track, and remain flexible within the funding rules and regulations. We have reviewed our budget and have set aside a staff forward planning day in July. On and Upwards team!



Kelli, Kim and Julian Kovacs in Cairns for the Lowitja conference sight-seeing



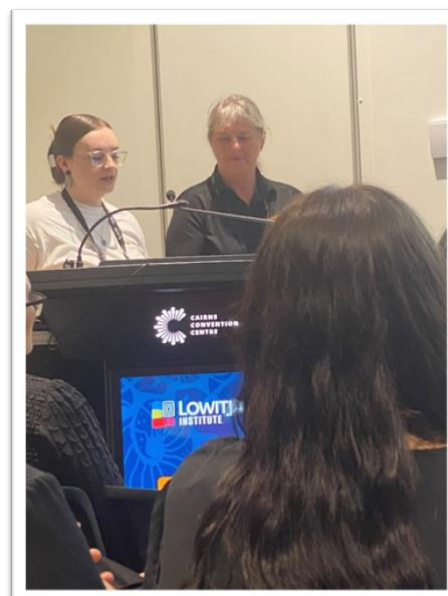
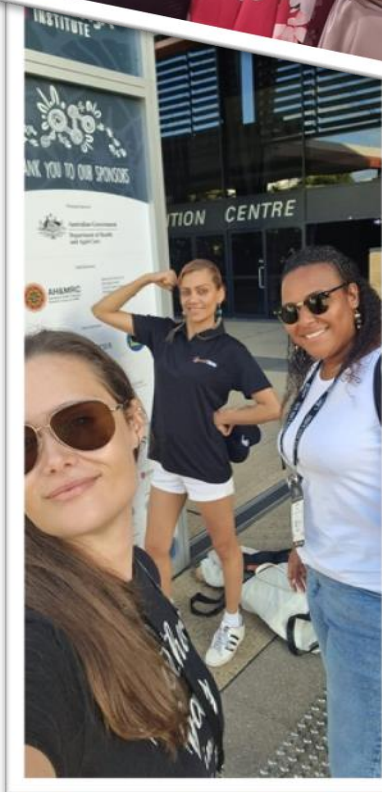
### Presentations

Tahlee and Melissa presented on Collaborative Approaches to Aboriginal Health Research to nursing academics from Chiang Mai University, Thailand on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Janet and Melissa presented on Collaborative Approaches to Aboriginal Health Research to nursing academics from Freiburg University, Germany on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

We spruiked how amazing it is to work with AKction and that we were uncomfortable presenting this without any of our First Nations team, but unfortunately no one was available to join us on these days.

Both universities were so impressed with the work that the team is doing and were really interested to learn about the amazing outcomes that have occurred thus far.



## Healing Our Spirit Worldwide

Kelli Owen, Rhanee Lester and Kynesha Temple have all had their abstracts accepted by HOSW to present in September



Healing Our Spirit Worldwide  
THE NINTH GATHERING

We are trying to raise money to attend the conference for the three women

We have raised \$1,400 to attend the conference in Vancouver!

It would wonderful if you could donate and help get us there.

Present at a conference in Vancouver, Canada



Kynesha Temple is organizing this fundraiser.

Help three First Nations Australian Women attend a conference in Canada to present our research about cultural safety in kidney care.

The money will go towards 3 plane tickets and accommodation for a week for three people in Vancouver, Canada.

AKction Aboriginal Kidney Care - Together Improving Outcomes Now, works within the University of Adelaide research how to improve kidney care for Indigenous patients. Below are the three women who got accepted to have a presentation at the conference

\$1,400 raised of \$16,000 goal

19 donations

Share

Donate now

This fundraiser is located near you

- Izabel Lazzolina \$10 · 1 mo
- Anonymous \$50 · 1 mo
- Kelly McMeekin \$50 · 1 mo
- Kayla Dickson \$50 · 7 mos
- Andrew Karzel \$50 · 2 mos

See all · See top donations

Please help get us there!

Website:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/hosw-conference-in-vancouver-canada?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_lico+share-sheet&utm\\_location=DASHBOARD](https://www.gofundme.com/f/hosw-conference-in-vancouver-canada?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet&utm_location=DASHBOARD)

## AKCTION2 REFERENCE TEAM (A2RT)

A BIG Welcome to Skye Elliot who will attend her first AR2T Meeting next month

It was Ramon Gadd's birthday this week! Sending a big happy birthday from the team at AKction2

Rhanee Lester and Kate Tyrell connected with a young Aboriginal women and her mother from Alice Springs who had just received a long awaited kidney transplant.



## CURRENT AKCTION2 REFERENCE TEAM MEMBERS:

Denise & Shellander Champion

Jared Kartinyeri

Kelli Owen

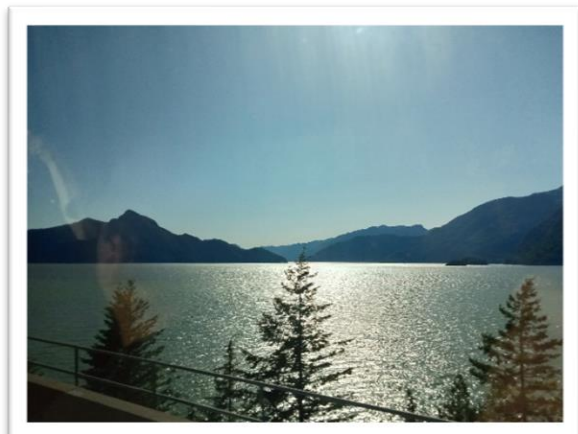
Lili Simo

Nari Sinclair

Ramon Gadd

Rhanee Lester

## TRIP TO CANADA



Janet recently visited Canada and met with colleagues and teams in Vancouver and Winnipeg and presented the AKtion project at the CAHSPR – Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference | Montreal. There was significant conversation at the conference about how First Nations communities and health services quickly established Indigenous Governance of data to ensure effective strategies were put in place to support and protect First Nations communities during the pandemic – for example rapid access to testing and immunisation, and equitable provision of masks and sanitiser.

In Vancouver Janet met the Can-SOLVE CKD Network and discussed the AKtion project and connected about our related works in Indigenous communities and kidney health. Knowledge Keepers Latash-Maurice Nahanee (Squamish Nation) and his wife Delhia Nahanee (Nisga'a Nation) provided a welcome with drumming and singing, which was incredibly special. Craig Settee shared the work that he is doing in cultural competency. There is also a connection between Craig and Kelli Owen. Craig and his brother and Kelli Owen co presented at the World Congress

of Nephrology conference in Melbourne in 2019. Shilpa remembers it well. Janet also met with the RenalBC (British Columbia) team and discussed CKD and dialysis care strategies in both countries, including the CARI guidelines and how they might be implemented. Adeera Levin and Shilpa work closely together, Michael Copland (Medical Director, Kidney Services) spoke of home dialysis and Gloria Freeborn and Helen Chiu of a range of strategies being undertaken in British Columbia.

While in Winnipeg, Janet connected with Josee Lavoie and Tannyce Cook who are working on kidney health research, prevention and early detection projects which include journey mapping and screening for kidney disease and diabetes. Tannyce also took Janet out to Bannock Point for the NIBI Gathering focusing on Building Water Relationships and Treaties and Decolonisation. Cree Elders provided teaching, a Pipe Ceremony and Water Ceremony, and discussed a range of concerns about water quality impacted by industry and poor farming practices. It was a real privilege to meet people in this beautiful setting, celebrate First Nations People's right to gather for Ceremony, and to be part of this gathering.



## HONOURS STUDENTS



The three nursing Honours students working with AKtion have met AKtion Reference Team members, their ethics amendments have been approved, and they are now beginning to interview Aboriginal people with lived experience of kidney disease and mapping their journeys.

Veda Mitra is talking to people about their experience of COVID19 and CKD.

Ayleen Castro is inviting people to share their experiences from when they received a phone call that a kidney was available, to discharge from hospital following transplantation.

Millie Baker is talking to people about their kidney transplantation journey after they return home again after receiving a kidney.

Harmandeep Kaur is another Nursing Honours student who is coming to the next Reference Team meeting to meet team members and discuss what the focus of her Nursing Honours project may be.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

### CONFERENCES



ANZSN ASM 2-6 September 2023

#### **THE COMPASS PROJECT: GUIDING KIDNEY CARE THROUGH ABORIGINAL PATIENT NAVIGATORS**

Kelli Owen

[ASM Provisional Program \(anzsnasm.com\)](https://anzsnasm.com)

#### **Publications coming out soon!**

· Toni Shearing, Leda Sivak, Gloria Mejia, Nikki Clinch, **Kim O'Donnell, Nari Sinclair, Jared Kartinyeri, Kelli Owen**, Douglas Clinch Jr, Kim Morey (2023). 'Evaluating a renal dialysis model of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South Australia', submitted to the Australian New Zealand Journal of Public Health

**Arnold-Ujvari, M., Rix, E., Yip, A., Tunncliffe, D. & Kelly, J.** (2023) *CARI Guidelines, Culturally safe and clinical kidney care for First Nations Australians: A Summary*. *Renal Society of Australasia Journal*. In press.





Elder Williamson always longed to be back home on country in Pukatja. She always shared how she missed the beautiful stars at night on her home country.

Let's continue to remember the amazing person she was and all the advocacy she did in the AKction2 space and beyond.

when we look at the stars we can be reminded of her legacy in AKction

**Anu nginti –**  
(Ngarrindjeri word for Thank  
you)

Thank you for keeping updated with AKtion2. If you would like to promote any work/training currently happening within the renal space, we would love to hear from you!

Deepest thanks to everyone working towards improving outcomes, de-colonising and co-designing safer health and wellbeing spaces.

*We appreciate those that  
continue to advocate for  
better health outcomes in  
the renal space.  
AKtion2 look forward to  
working in partnership with  
you all in 2023.*

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**AKtion2**

**Aboriginal kidney care together -  
improving outcomes now**

If any of our AKtion2 networks would like to be involved or have any of your resources added to our stall please contact Rhanee and/or Kynesha via the AKtion email: [aktion@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:aktion@adelaide.edu.au)