



Aboriginal Kidney Care, Together Improving Outcomes Now – AKAction2

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the sovereign Kurna people, traditional owners of the Tarntanya, (Adelaide Plains). We respect their spiritual and physical connection to the land, seas, and waterways, and acknowledge that their cultural practices are strong and thriving today. We honour First Nation Peoples, who have passed, our Elders today, and future generations.

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Message from the AKction team:

We are officially halfway through 2022!

Its Reconciliation month, this year's theme is particularly fitting for AKction and our collaborators, allies, and networks. In 2022 there is a call to "Be Brave and Make Change" which is a reminder to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can make change for all.

June has been a month of milestones and celebrations for AKction2. It is a beautiful reminder that we need to stop and celebrate all our small and big wins. Research, industry, and services often highlight work that still needs to be done and overlooks important work that has been done! Here at AKction we purposefully work with decolonising frameworks and processes and celebrate our journeys, our wins, and our small steps forward. In fact, this is embedded in our job descriptions and Working Together Agreement.

Update from AKction and the Renal Space:

- **Ethics** – Thank you to the health services who have provided a letter of support
- **Publications** – Please keep an eye out in the Aus NZ Public Health Journal for two articles about the AKction 1 Community Consultations:
 - Janet Kelly is leading the paper titled: Aboriginal patients driving kidney and healthcare improvements: recommendations from South Australian community consultations
 - Sam Bateman is leading the paper titled: Real Ways of Working Together: Co-creating meaningful Aboriginal community consultations to advance kidney care
- **De-colonising Processes** – Most institutions are built on colonised policies and procedures. Here in the AKction2 team(s) we are actively de-colonising our position descriptions and the onboarding of staff members. We are exploring diverse ways of publicising our collaborative work and sharing our findings such as publishing articles in both Croakey and peer reviewed articles and using a decolonised method to recruit our male Elder through a culturally respectful expression of interest process.
- **New staff member** – We welcome Jared Kartinyeri, who is now an AKction2 community Researcher employed by the University of Adelaide. Jared is leading the men's kidney health and peer support team, with the assistance of Prof Paul Bennett and Iain Everett.
- **Indigenous Reference Group (IRG)** – 8 themes have been reported by IRG members to Executive to address. The Executive has committed over the next 3-5 years to work through the logistics, consultation, implementation and review. NT, SA & NSW members on dialysis or post treatment (looking for representation in Ceduna & Whyalla). The first two themes are Cultural Safety and Cultural organ cleansing ceremony.
- **Aboriginal Health Practitioner's (AHP):** This month, the Central and Northern Adelaide Renal & Transplant Services (CNARTS) were delighted to welcome four Aboriginal Health Practitioners from the Far West Coast of SA. From Ceduna - Alarna Gunter; a Pitjantjatjara & Yankunyatjara woman born on Wirangu Country and Amelia Ware; a Mirning & Wirangu woman. From Port Lincoln - Maryanne Clements; a Mirning and Gogatha woman and Debra Flavel; a Ngarrindjeri, Kokatha & Wirangu Aboriginal woman. These four dedicated women will be training in Renal Dialysis care and will be the first in South Australia to participate in this regional project, managed by Sharon Bilney and James Blewitt from Eyre and Far North Local Health Network.

Staff updates:

This month we would like to introduce you to our newest staff member Jared Kartinyeri.

Jared is a Ngarrindjeri and Wiradjuri man who began with AKction as a Reference Team member. He brings his lived experience to help guide AKction2.

We are excited to have Jared formally involved a Community Researcher where he plans yarning with men around CKD, prevention and focusing on physical and mental health.



Good News Stories



Photo above – Organ cleansing – smoking ceremony at the RAH for Kuranye Owen

- Kuranye Owen (youngest member of the Akction Reference Team) received “*the call*” and has just received a **kidney transplant!!!** AKction Project Team send him the biggest love and support
- Kelli Owen celebrated her 6-year anniversary of a kidney transplant!!! Congratulations to Kelli!!!
- Janet & Sam received notification regarding acceptance of our AKction1 for publication in the Australia New Zealand Public Health Journal - please keep an eye on your email for the link
- Kim and Kynasha both celebrated another year around the sun – here is to many more!
- Nari, Jared and Melissa are travelling to Darwin to present the AKction poster at the annual Renal Society of Australasia conference – Stop by for a yarn if your there
- Amy Graham is accepting a contract for teaching within the Adelaide Nursing School and will still have her position as AKction Coordinator
- AKction has re-connected with our partners in Canada and are planning to co-present at the HSRAANZ Health Services Research conference in Sydney in November/December 2022
- Jared Kartinyeri and Paul Bennett from CNARTS/UniSA are partnering together as part of AKction , focusing on men’s kidney journeys and to explore physical fitness
- Alyssa Cormick and Amy Graham wrote an Opinion piece for Croakey – it is now published and can be accessed at: <https://www.croakey.org/health-journey-mapping-having-a-yarn-about-health/>
- Health Journey Mapping Opinion Ed in Croakey – picked up by Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA): <https://mailchi.mp/ahha/ahha-healthcare-in-brief-10-june?e=1d9abaa9d2>
- Kelli and Kim presented to the Flinders Medical Centre clinicians 3 June, during Reconciliation week, a packed room full of smiles under masks and ‘stylin up’
- Janet Kelly, Amy Graham, Sam Bateman and Melissa Arnold-Chamney are attending the Indigenous methodologies course in July – For anyone interested in Indigenous Methodologies course please visit: <https://students.flinders.edu.au/topic/indg9000/2022>

Students – current

AKction has put out a call within Adelaide Uni for a male Honours student to explore health journey mapping and to map some of our male community members' kidney health journeys.

Upcoming Events / Presentations / Conferences

- NAIDOC week is coming up – we encourage everyone to show their support and celebrate NAIDOC week – 3rd - 10th July 2022. This year's theme: Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!

Regional visits

The AKction team are beginning to discuss visiting the regional and remote AKction sites and reconnecting with community members and health services in Port Augusta/Whyalla, Ceduna/Yalata and Murray Bridge. We are very mindful of ongoing COVID and now Flu and cold weather impacts on communities and health services and are working with locals to decide the best time to visit.

We are also working with CARI to share the draft National Clinical Guidelines with community members and health professionals in Adelaide, Port Augusta, and Ceduna. Janet and Rhaneé are traveling to Coober Pedy this month and will share information with community and health professionals.

Nukkin (See you next time)

Thank you for keeping updated with AKction2. 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-creating safer health and wellbeing spaces.

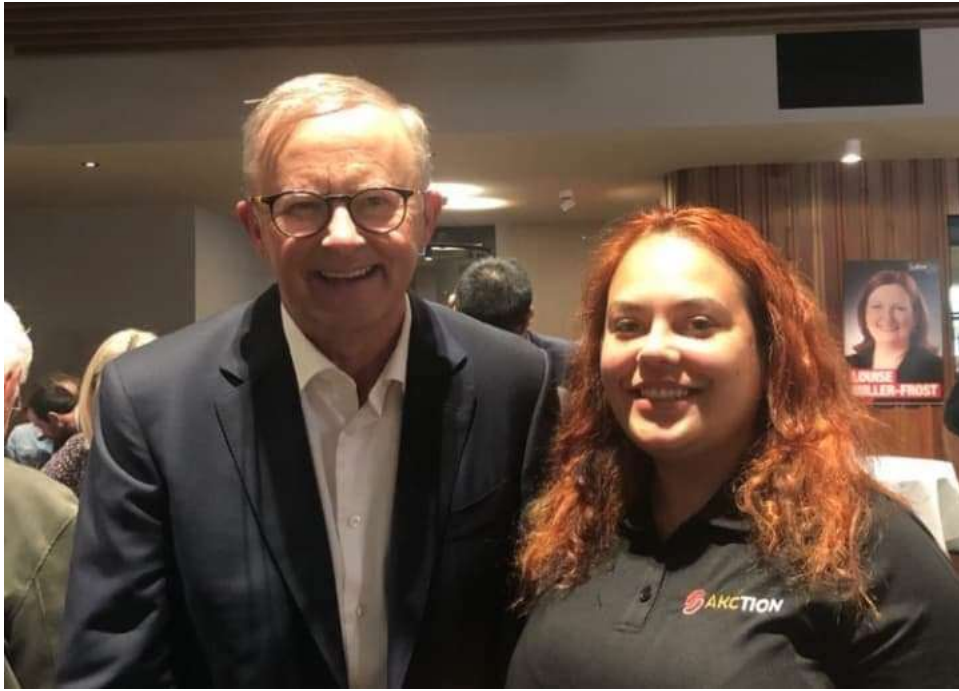
Moments in time...



Kuranye Owen about to begin his transplant journey – surrounded by family



AKtion team with Pro-Vice Chancellor of Indigenous Engagement Steve Larkin and baby Augie!



Kynesha proudly representing AKction and yarning with Prime Minister Albanese



Jared Kartinyeri and Nari Sinclair preparing for their Darwin trip

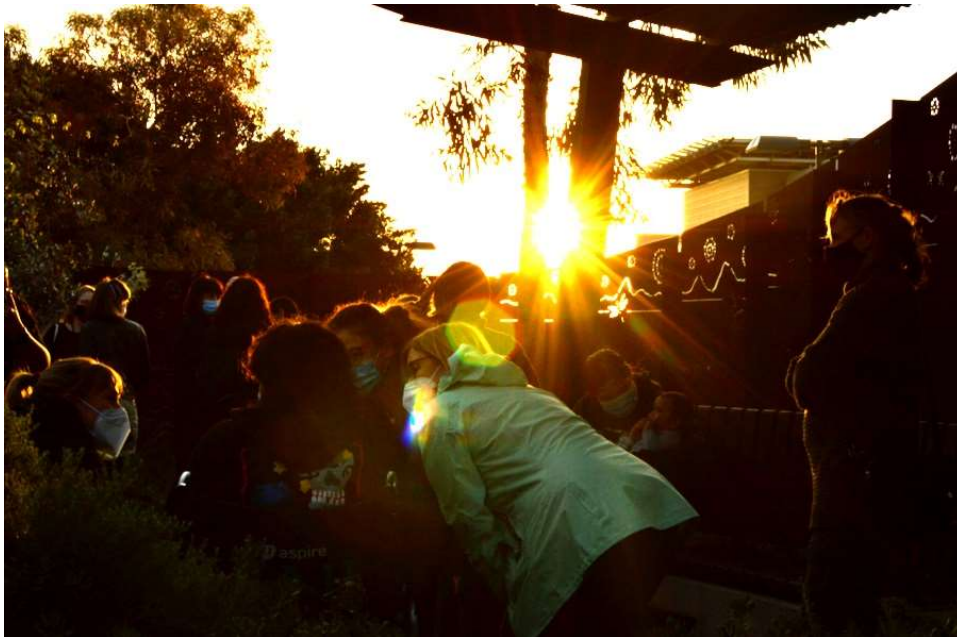


Kelli Owen, Sam Bateman, Kim O'Donnell, Amy Graham, Janet Kelly and Kynesha Temple-Varcoe in the office

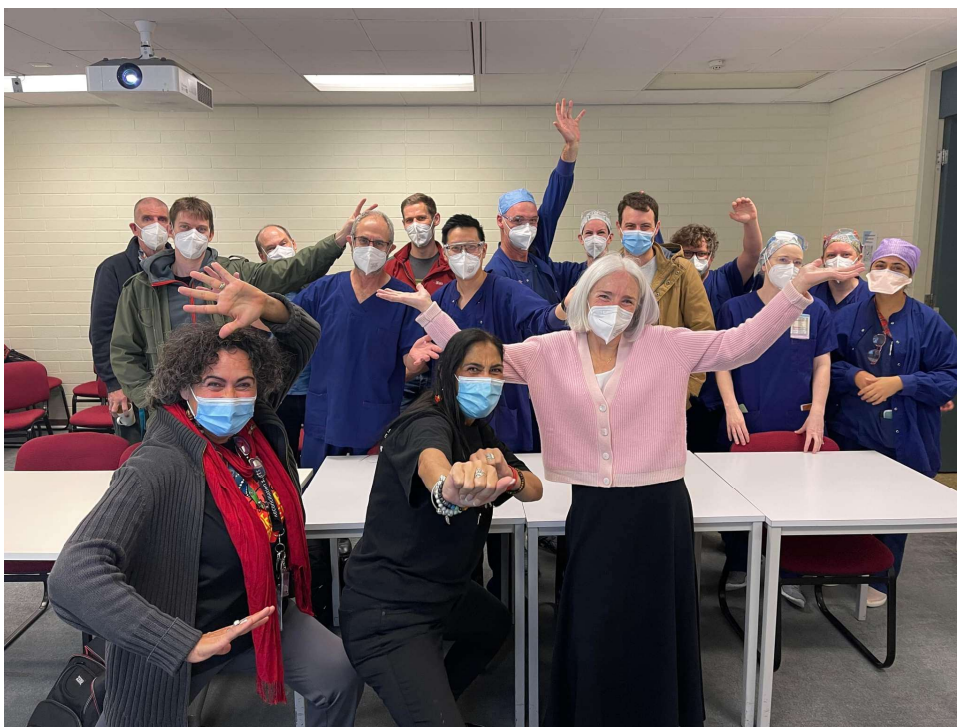


Aboriginal Health Practitioners

AKAction team with some of the new Renal



Kuranye in Kaurna means Rainbow



Kim O'Donnell and Kelli Owen yarning up about AKction2 at Flinders Medical Centre