



Aboriginal Kidney Care Together Improving Outcomes Now AKction2

December 2022 issue

Compiled by AKction2 team



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Kurna people, traditional owners of the Tarntanya, (Adelaide Plains). We respect their spiritual and physical connection to the land, seas, and waterways. We acknowledge their deep connection to the community and pay our respects to the Kurna Elders who fought and paved the way for future generations.

We acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live and work on Kurna yerta and acknowledge the allies who know when to walk beside us, in front of us and behind us.



Pictured: Melissa Arnold-Chamney, Jared Kartinyeri, Amy Graham, Isaac Brown, Alyssa Cormick, Liz Rix, Kelli Owen, Kynesia Temple-Vaicoe, Kim O'Donnell, Nari Sinclair, and Janet Kelly.

Message from the AKAction2 team:

It's December! The end of year and the perfect time to gather some of our favourite memories and reflect on the tremendous work we have all done together.

November and December have been busy months with community consultations, interstate conferences, local gatherings and continued planning.

Grab your cup of tea and come on a journey with us.

Enjoy the read and don't forget to take time to breathe, reflect and celebrate all achievements.

Publications

This year we have proudly published **x5 peer reviewed articles**:

- Kelly, J., Stevenson, T., Arnold-Chamney, M., Bateman, S., Jesudason, S., McDonald, S., O'Donnell, K., Pearson, O., Sinclair, N., & Williamson, I. (2022). Aboriginal patients driving kidney and healthcare improvements: recommendations from South Australian community consultations. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 46(5), 622–629. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.13279>
 - Bateman, Arnold-Chamney, M., Jesudason, S., Lester, R., McDonald, S., O'Donnell, K., Owen, K., Pearson, O., Sinclair, N., Stevenson, T., Williamson, I., & Kelly, J. (2022). **Real Ways of Working Together: co-creating meaningful Aboriginal community consultations to advance kidney care.** *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 46(5), 614–621. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.13280>
 - Hughes, J. T., Kelly, J., Cormick, A., Coates, P. T., & O'Donnell, K. M. (2022). **Resetting the relationship: decolonizing peer review of First Nations' kidney health research.** *Kidney International*, 102(4), 683–686.
 - Davies, E, Bulto, L. N., Walsh, A., Pollock, D., Langton, V. M., Laing, R. E., Graham, A., Arnold-Chamney, M., & Kelly, J. (2022). **Reporting and conducting patient journey mapping research in healthcare: A scoping review.** *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.15479>
 - Cormick A, Owen K, Turnbull, D, Kelly, J and O'Donnell K (2022) **Renal healthcare: Voicing recommendations from the journey of an Aboriginal woman with chronic kidney disease.** *Renal Society of Australasia Journal* 18(3):xxx.
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- AKtion2 have published three articles in Croakey. All three articles have been pulled together in a report, as Associate Professor Shilpanjali Jesudason says *"I strongly urge you to read this Croakey report, understand the stories of the AKTION team members and be inspired. While there remains much to do, take a moment to reflect on how far this incredible team have come."* To access the report and read all three articles please visit: <https://www.croakey.org/as-new-report-launches-historic-meeting-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-kidney-patients-and-carers-to-co-design-transplantation-equity/>
 - **Community consultations** have progressed, AKtion collaborated with **Yadu Health** to facilitate a kidney yarning day, providing local community with preventative health screening, healthy lunch and yarning sessions from some of our AKtion Reference Team (ART) members. We are now in the process of writing a report and have continued to make connections and we are planning ongoing community consultations in 2023. AKtion would like to thank **Kidney Health** for providing Billy the Kidney and resources. We also thank **Amanda Biddle** for her time and clinical assistance.
 - AKtion2 are very humbled and honoured to be the **winning** finalist in the category **"Excellence in research (teams)"** for the University of Adelaide Outstanding Achievement. The team were invited to the awards ceremony where the Pro Vice Chancellor presented the award.

Conferences and Community consultations



Picture above: AKAction Mob in Ceduna reflecting on the community kidney health day
Picture below: Jared Kartinyeri and Janet Kelly arriving in Ceduna



“Let’s yarn about kidney health”

On Wednesday 2nd November 2022 members of our AKAction2 team, clinicians and community members were invited to a day focused on prevention and health screening for community members in Ceduna and surroundings.

Yadu Health together with AKAction2 planned and facilitated the day, the aim was to promote kidney care, yarn about health, provide a healthy feed and have Aboriginal Health Practitioner’s offer health screening to community as they entered the event.

These community yarning's and consultation fit within our AKction2 research subs-study Peer Support and follow on from conversations around the CARI guidelines for Kidney care.

Future consultations are planned and we are in the process of writing a report on the renal needs of the community.



Pictured: AKction2 arriving in Ceduna



Pictured: Janet Kelly and Rhanee Lester preparing the hall for yarning about kidney.

Health Services Research Association Australia and New Zealand

The 12th annual health and research conference was held on Gadijal (Sydney) Country at the end of November into the beginning of December.

The purpose of the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ) is to facilitate communication across researchers, and between researchers and policymakers, to promote education and training in health services research, and to ensure sustainable capacity in health services research in Australia and New Zealand.

Janet, Kim and Kynesha presented two presentations one for *Health Journey Mapping* and the other for “*Improving Aboriginal people’s kidney care journeys – Kangawodli hostel dialysis*”



Pictured: Kim O’Donnell and Kynesha Temple-Varcoe presenting at the Health Services Research Association

While on Gadijal Country the team were fortunate to catch up with our international Chief Investigator Josee Lavoie



Pictured: Kim O’Donnell and Josee Lavoie

Monthly worker profile with Associate Professor Janet Kelly

Associate Professor Janet Kelly also known as 'Nana J' to some of the AKtion babies is of English and German descent, and grew up on Kangaroo Island, off the coast of South Australia.

Janet trained as a nurse in a major city hospital and then after a range of midwifery and women's health positions, moved into community health nursing in urban, rural and remote settings across South Australia, working with both Aboriginal and mainstream health colleagues and community members. Over time, Janet sought to better understand what was happening for Aboriginal peoples and to improve the way care was provided, with and for Aboriginal people. She completed a Master of Nursing and PhD focused on collaboration in health care. During this time she travelled to Canada with an Aboriginal colleague, and became increasingly aware of the extensive and ongoing impacts of colonisation, on Aboriginal peoples, and on how health services are structured and function.

Janet has worked across a number of Aboriginal health research projects that seek to better understand the perspectives and experiences of Aboriginal patients, families and communities, and of health professionals and health services who strive to provide quality care. She has co-created patient journey and health journey mapping tools that identify gaps in communication, coordination, collaboration and cultural safety, as well as existing and potential strategies for improvement. These tools recognise the strengths and resilience of Aboriginal peoples, as well as the challenges they face when accessing care.

We thank Janet for always walking beside us, for knowing when to walk behind us and knowing when to walk in front. We also thank her for her ongoing contribution and dedication to AKtion and to capacity building all members of the team.



Pictured: Associate Professor Janet Kelly

Awards

Tuesday 6th December 2022 AKtion were invited to accept The University of Adelaide award for Outstanding Achievement, we were the winners for the Excellence in Research (Team). Thank you to all of AKtion's AI's, CI's researchers and clinicians who make AKtion possible.

During the presentation of the award it was acknowledged that:

“The Aboriginal Kidney Care Together, Improving Outcomes Now is an innovative and unique research project that is improving kidney care for and with Aboriginal patients by privileging and acting on the voices of Aboriginal patient experts, their families and community members. Based within the Adelaide Nursing School, co-led by Dr Kim O'Donnell and Associate Professor Janet Kelly, AKtion brings together patient experts, academics, healthcare professionals, peak bodies and key stakeholders to collaboratively co-design innovated and responsive models of kidney care within and across health and support services.

The team work within a brave space and hold a vision of how their research can (and must) have immediate impact and benefit for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal recipients of kidney care, as well as the health professionals and services providing that care. They are significant contributors to the inaugural National Indigenous Clinical Kidney Care Guidelines, and National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce, both of which are making significant clinical, policy and model of care changes leading to improved access and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people with kidney disease. AKtion set an example and a precedent for exceedingly high quality, culturally safe research”



Pictured: University of Adelaide Vice Chancellor, Executive Dean and Head of School with representatives from the AKtion team at the awards ceremony.

Standing up Strong, Yarning up Loud Gathering

When small ideas lead to big things!

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM), The University of Adelaide, Flinders University, University of South Australia and Tafe SA came together to facilitate a two day Gathering to listen to the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AMIC workers, Midwives, Nurses, Students and Cultural Consultants as well as Non-Indigenous workers. The yarning's were about recruitment and retention of Aboriginal staff and focusing on future strategies.

Three themed questions were raised during the gathering:

1. What are our strengths
2. What are the gaps
3. What are our strategies moving forward?

*“Our collective of nursing and midwifery educators agree the time is right for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives to stand strong and yarn up loud to ensure First Peoples voices are heard and their experiences reflected in the future directions of health workforce policy and planning”, said **Dr Lynore Geia** from Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) and **Dr Janet Kelly** from the Adelaide Nursing School.*

The organising committee which includes representatives from each institution are now in the process of writing a report and preparing for the next steps.



Pictured above: Janet Kelly and Dr Lynore Geia facilitating the two day gathering



Pictured above: Janet Kelly, Sharon Clarke and University of Adelaide Nursing students

AKtion end of year feed and get together

To those who couldn't make lunch on the 8th December we missed you! And to those who could join us for a laugh and a feed we thank you!

Sharing food, stories and sharing our voices is something that we must continue to do, it encourages those relational networks and promotes us as a family!

Thank you to Kynesha for your hard work in arranging an end of year lunch for our AKtion family.



Pictured: Kynesha Temple-Varcoe, Jared Kartinyeri, Kim O'Donnell and Kelli Owen



Pictured to the Left: AKtion2 end of year gathering. Pictured to the right: Kim O'Donnell and Nari Sinclair

Thank you to those that continue to advocate for better health outcomes in the renal space.

AKction2 look forward to working in partnership with you all in 2023.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



Anu nginti –

(Ngarrindjeri word for Thank you)

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-designing safer health and wellbeing spaces.

AKction contact details

Email: akction@adelaide.edu.au