

October 2024 AKction News Brief



AKction
Aboriginal kidney care together -
Improving outcomes now



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the original custodians and Elders, the Kurna, whose lands we work upon. We respect Kurna spiritual and physical connections to land, seas, skies and waterways where cultural practices continue to thrive, as always. Sovereignty was never ceded.

We also acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from afar who live and work on Kurna Yarta (lands) South Australia, and research activists, who walk alongside us. May we continue to rise like damper together to improve access and culturally safe health services for our peoples.

Following are actions we have been actioning. Grab a cuppa, sit back, relax, and read on....

Yalata Kidney Festival 2024

This year, AKction was invited to take part in the annual attendance of the Kidney Festival in Yalata, South Australia. Representing AKction this year was Janet Kelly, Tahlee Stevenson, Samantha Bateman, and Rhane Lester, along with several medical, nursing, and allied health students from the University of Adelaide. This week-long event included taking part in health screenings, paying visits to various clinics both near and along the way to Yalata and having yarns, listening to the locals about what they need to prevent kidney disease in the first instance, followed by what is required now, to address high rates of kidney disease in their communities.

Previous ventures to Yalata with the University students have proven to be a fantastic opportunity for them to learn on

the ground, away from the confines of the University. The opportunity to take part first-hand in early detection screenings of kidney disease and learning about the importance of Yarning with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, lessons we hope will inform and stay with students throughout their careers that speak up to and can unpack understanding systemic racism in practice towards culturally safe health care.

ANZSN Conference

AKction and some of our Reference Team members were fortunate to have a significant role at this year's Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) Conference, held in Adelaide SA.

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Jared Kartinyeri & Janet Kelly presenting at ANZSN

Over several days, Janet Kelly, Jared Kartinyeri and Rhanee Lester gave presentations covering cultural safety, the CARI Guidelines, AKAction itself and the lessons learned so far. On Sunday, September 1st, we hosted a Consumer Day, a collaborative effort supported by the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry, ANZSN, and Kidney Health Australia.

The Consumer Day was specifically tailored to meet the needs of consumers, with a focus on providing information, education, and networking opportunities.

ANS Cultural Safety Workshop

September, also saw an A2RT member Jared Kartinyeri and an AKAction team member Liz Rix collaborate in 2 three-hour workshops, where the principles and practice of Cultural Safety were unpacked in-depth. The main educational focus was to expand Nursing staff members' skills and awareness for supporting Aboriginal nursing students as they navigate their degree. This workshop resulted from a survey that Melissa Arnold-Ujvari and Tahlee Stevenson did last year to gauge staff needs and skills for teaching Cultural Safety to all nursing students. As we all

know Aboriginal nurses are the pinnacle of culturally safe healthcare.

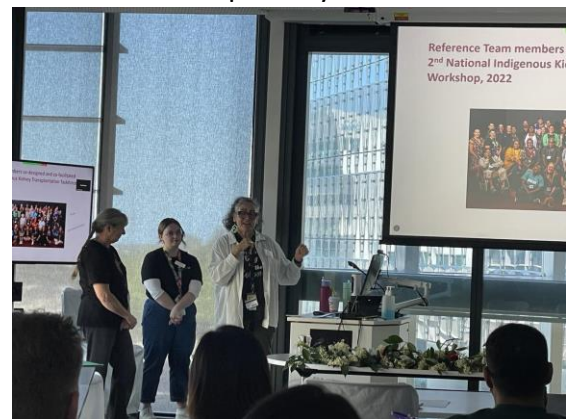


Left-right: Liz R, Jared K, Janet K, Tahlee S, Melissa A

2024 Ngadluku Taikuringka Ngutu

On the 26th of September, AKAction members Kim O'Donnell, Janet Kelly & Tahlee Stevenson co-presented to give an hour-long presentation as part of the '2024 Ngadluku Taikuringka Ngutu – The Knowledge We Share – Community and Primary Health Care'.

Covering the history and progress of AKAction and our primary care initiatives.



Left-right: Janet K, Tahlee S, Kim O

AKAction2 (A2RT) Reference Team Activities

Marissa Wilson has shared her journey on the 13th of September at a Yarning about Kidney Transplant event at Kanggawodli.

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Watch this space and where Marissa is heading. 😊

Many Reference Team Members are busy recording their kidney journeys (audio and visual), so when they are invited to share their expertise, their family/ kidney journey, they can do so confidently, standing tall, proud, and speaking up, strong in culture and their lived experiences to help others.



Our beloved Marissa Wilson

In our most recent meeting on the 3rd of October, Michelle Sweet gave the team a detailed update on the Stay Strong project and Melissa Arnold-Ujvari an update on the fantastic progress she is making with her PHD.



Our team styling it up!

International Congress of the Transplantation Society

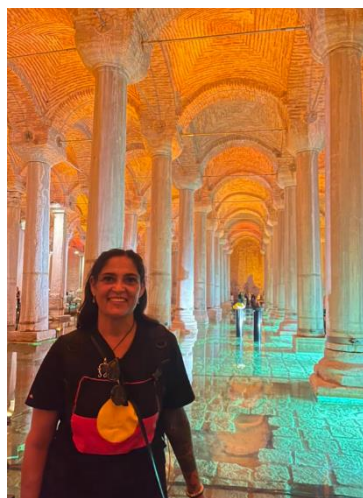
Kelli Owen has just returned from giving the keynote speech for the 30th International Congress of the Transplantation Society in Istanbul, Türkiye.

Kelli provided an hour-long speech about the critical importance of cultural safety in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health and renal care.



Kelli Owen giving her speech

Speaking about her experiences in Türkiye, Kelli was so impressed with the city of Istanbul and honoured to give such a prominent speech to an international audience, many influential medical professionals in the renal sector.



Kelli Owen out-&-about in the historic city of Istanbul!

Fringe 2025 Poster Competition

A2RT member Lili Simpson-Lytle, recently entered a competition to create a poster for the 2025 SA Fringe Festival with the theme 'Bubblegum'.

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Lili's entry into the 2025 Fringe competition!

Lili describes her poster as 'bringing together with vitality, a delicious diversity of art, creativity, culture, and humanity, to ignite the senses for all to enjoy. Bubblegum is in the final top 40! We are sharing Lili's poster everywhere we can and look forward to celebrating with Lili when she takes out first prize! Click on the blue link below to experience Lili's animated version of the poster. Whooo Hooo!!



[Lili has also made an animated version of her poster, too!](#)

Congratulations to Harmandeep!

Harmandeep has completed her Nursing Honours study with AKction, submitting her final assignment in September.

Harmandeep worked closely with A2RT Tahlee and Janet to complete her study on exploring experiences of social and emotional well-being and mental health support for First Nations people with chronic kidney disease. This topic was chosen by the Reference Team to further inform change in the renal spaces. Harmandeep was guided by A2RT and AKction staff throughout her study. Next step, a publication. 😊



Harmandeep, surrounded by the team!

We acknowledge and pay our respect to the Kidney Warrior in this photo who has passed into the Dreaming.

Talkin UP ChangeFest Learning Network

ChangeFest is the nation-wide movement for place-based change in Australia.

ChangeFest celebrates the significance of place and the progress being made. It supports the movement to learn and strengthen our understanding of community-led approaches and is a demonstration of how initiatives across diverse lands are encouraging collaboration across sectors, meaningful engagement, and elevating First Nations and community voices as a pathway for transformative change.

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Session 2: Barkly Backbone Community Researchers, Tues 15 October, 12.30pm-2pm AEST
This session will explore the work of the Barkly Community Researchers Program, NT. The Community Researchers are working with the Barkly Backbone Team to gather data and stories from community members across the Barkly – focusing on strengthening youth and training opportunities in the Barkly. In this session, you will hear directly from the Community Researchers about bringing together Wumpurani (Aboriginal) and Papulanji (Non-Aboriginal) into the Middle Space- a shared way of working.

[Click here to register!](#)

[Read more about ChangeFest here!](#)

ORAL HEALTH PAPER

In response to a collaboration between AKction, TAFESA, Kanggawodli and CNARTS, whereby oral health was identified as a significant concern for mob, a discussion paper was published about the collaboration and outcomes. The paper includes oral health information, a visual map and discussion about the collaborative approach and outcomes.

[To read this paper, click here!](#)

Australian Public Health Conference

Kynesha, who was a researcher in the AKction team presented in Perth at the Australian Public Health Conference in September. Kynesha spoke about the AKction research project and the importance of valuing and respecting

Indigenous cultural practices and the lived experiences of kidney warriors. The presentation highlighted the importance of connecting to culture by learning language, keeping spirit strong through holistic approaches, and embedding culturally safe practices. It also identified the value of people with lived experience holding central roles in the research.

Wilcannia, NSW High School Students Visit the School of Nursing Adelaide Simulation Centre

On Tuesday 24th September, Kim, Janet, and Melissa entertained a group of students and teachers from Wilcannia in the simulation centre. We talked about the importance of knowing First Aid, the first steps to saving lives (DRABC) and role play. We finished the session with students in the 'Big Hole' room (soon to be officially named after Nari Sinclair). 😊 We are hoping for future enrolments into nursing or medicine from the deadly Wilcannia students.



Students in the soon-to-be Nari Sinclair room