

Establishing the National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT)

Overview

1. What is the problem?
2. Establishing the NIKTT - timeline of events
3. NIKTT objectives and initiatives
4. Where to next?

What is the problem?

Organ transplant system 'tipped towards non-Indigenous patients'

By 7.30 By Indigenous affairs correspondent Bridget Brennan
Updated 14 Dec 2017, 11:27am



PHOTO: Darwin dialysis patient Jacqueline Amagula would like to be waitlisted for a kidney transplant. (ABC News: Bridget Brennan)

Australians should be "saddened, angry and flabbergasted" that Indigenous patients are up to 10 times less likely to be added to the kidney donation waitlist than non-Indigenous patients, a leading renal specialist has said.

Dr Paul Lawton, a specialist at the Menzies School of Health Research, said Australian kidney specialists were "well meaning" but that structural racism had led to unacceptably low transplant rates for Aboriginal patients.

Key points:

- Indigenous dialysis patients 10 times less likely to be put on a waitlist for kidney transplant
- Dr Paul Lawton says non-Indigenous doctors are biased towards non-Indigenous dialysis

Support The Guardian

Subscribe Sign in Search

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle More

Australia World AU politics Environment Football Indigenous Australia Immigration Media Business Science Tech

Indigenous Australians

Helen Davidson @heloisedavidson

'Institutionalised racism' reason for fewer Indigenous kidney transplants

Kidney specialist Paul Lawton says Indigenous 'compliance' challenges misunderstood so patients thought high-risk and less likely to go on waiting list

ABC NEWS

Adelaide, SA

Just in Politics World Business Sport Science Health Arts Analysis Finance

Kidney specialists call for system overhaul to stop Indigenous patients making fatal choices

By Lucy Marks

Updated 13 Nov 2017, 2:03pm

PHOTO: Dialysis patients from across the country met in Darwin in September. (ABC News: Bridget Brennan)

Kidney disease specialists pushing for reform of the renal care system say it is unknown how many Indigenous patients decide not to have life-saving dialysis treatment due to the distress caused by travelling long distances from home.

A new report released by the Menzies School of Health Research has recommended an overhaul of the system after compiling the testimonies of dozens of patients and their carers from across Australia.

RELATED STORY: 'Without family they've got nothing': Push for community-run dialysis services

RELATED STORY: 'Without family they've got nothing': Push for community-run dialysis services

RELATED STORY: Dialysis treatments set to increase in NT by up to 75 per cent

RELATED STORY: Kidney disease needs to be seen as 'curable' of Indigenous health care

Print Email Facebook Twitter More

Racism likely at play in low Indigenous kidney transplants, AMA says

By Indigenous affairs reporters Bridget Brennan and Isabella Higgins

Updated 14 Dec 2017, 8:07am

PHOTO: Brenda Gail Aker has spent nearly five years of her life on dialysis. (ABC News: Isabella Higgins)

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Home Membership About Advocacy Resources Career Hub Network Media Address States & Local

Healthcare Medicine

News Health On The Hill Columns Opinion Research Features Lifestyle Letter Information Previous Editions

UNACCEPTABLE KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RATE FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

18 Dec 2017

AMA President Dr Michael Gannon has called for urgent attention in addressing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians accessing kidney transplants.

Figures just released show that Indigenous patients are 10 times less likely than non-Indigenous patients to be added to the waiting list for a kidney transplant.

About 10 per cent of patients receiving dialysis treatment in Australia are Indigenous. Only 244 of 10,535 patients with a functioning kidney transplant are Indigenous.

Some case reports have pointed to a racially-biased bias, suggesting some non-Indigenous doctors favour non-Indigenous dialysis patients.

Other specialists in the field insist the gap is not fuelled by racism.

During an interview with the ABC, Dr Gannon said these figures were unacceptable and more needed to be done to ensure Indigenous Australians received transplants when needed.

"I'm shocked by those figures. A ten-fold gap is entirely unacceptable," Dr Gannon said.

"The topic of racism in our health system is an uncomfortable one for doctors, nurses, but it has to be one of the possible reasons for this kind of disparity."

"If there's racism why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are not being transplanted, they need to be investigated."

news.com.au

LOVE THE NEVER ENDING SOFTNESS

National World Lifestyle Travel Entertainment Technology Finance Sport

national

'Racist' health system failing NT indigenous kidney patients, says leading Darwin specialist

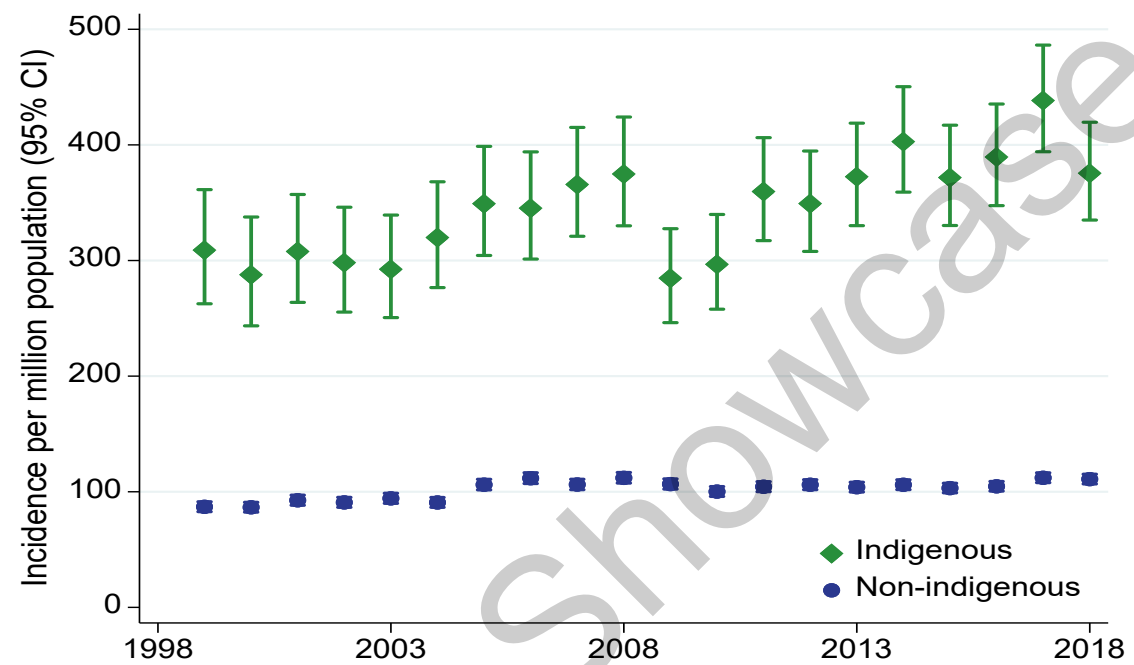
A "RACIST" health system means Aboriginal Australians are missing out on kidney transplants because non-Indigenous residents are given first preference, according to a specialist.

JACKSON WALLS

NT News

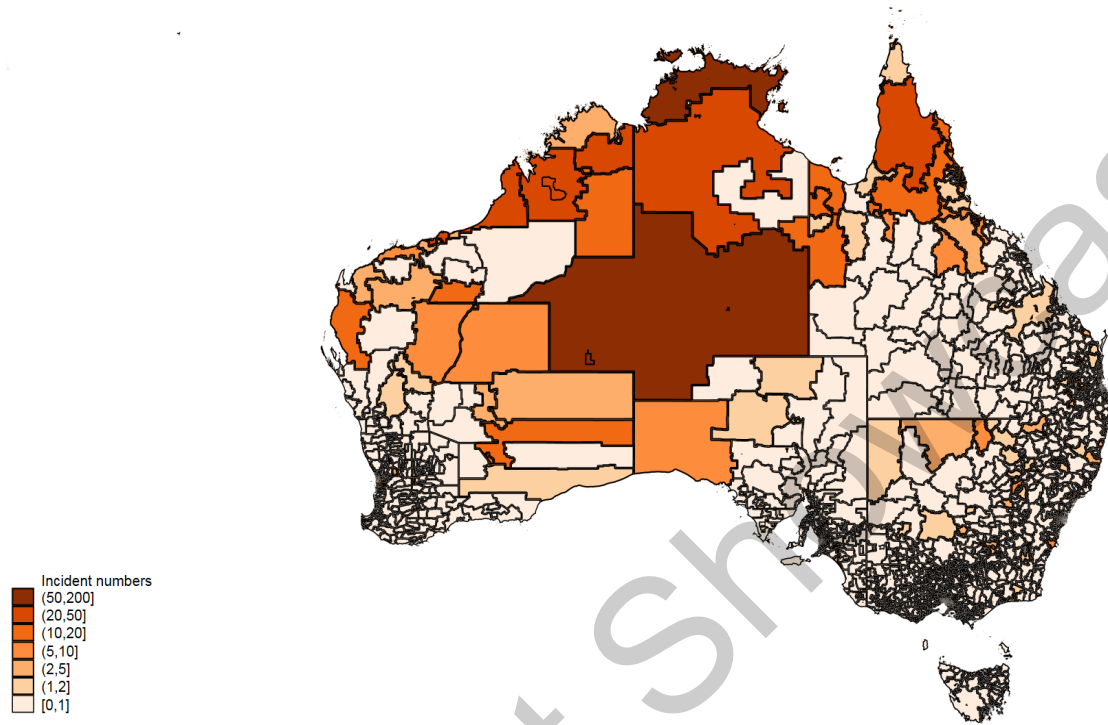
DECEMBER 16, 2017 4:49PM

Incident RRT Rate



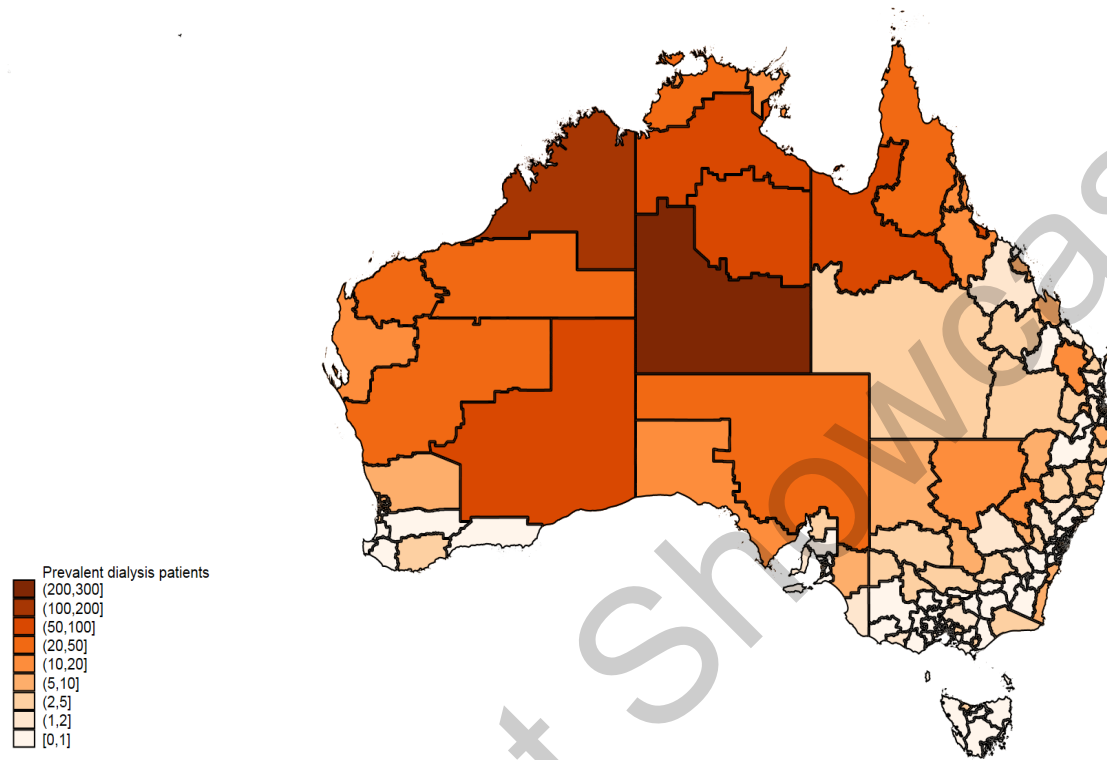
Unadjusted Incident RRT Rate, Australia, 2018 (ANZDATA, 2019).

Location (by postcode)



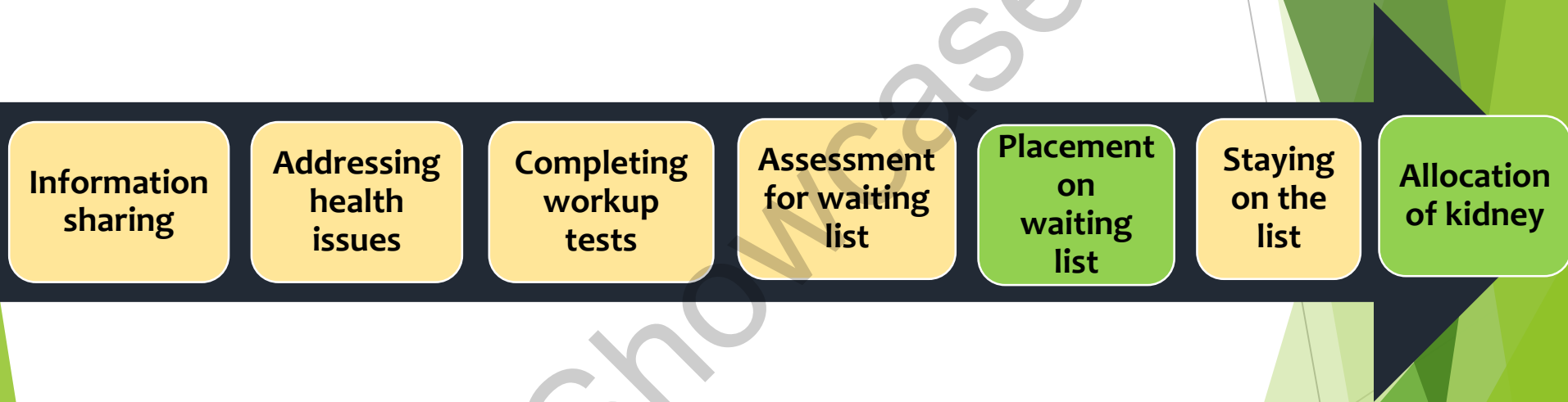
Incident Indigenous Australian Dialysis Patients 2014 - 2018 by postcode (ANZDATA, 2019).

Location (by SAS Level 3)

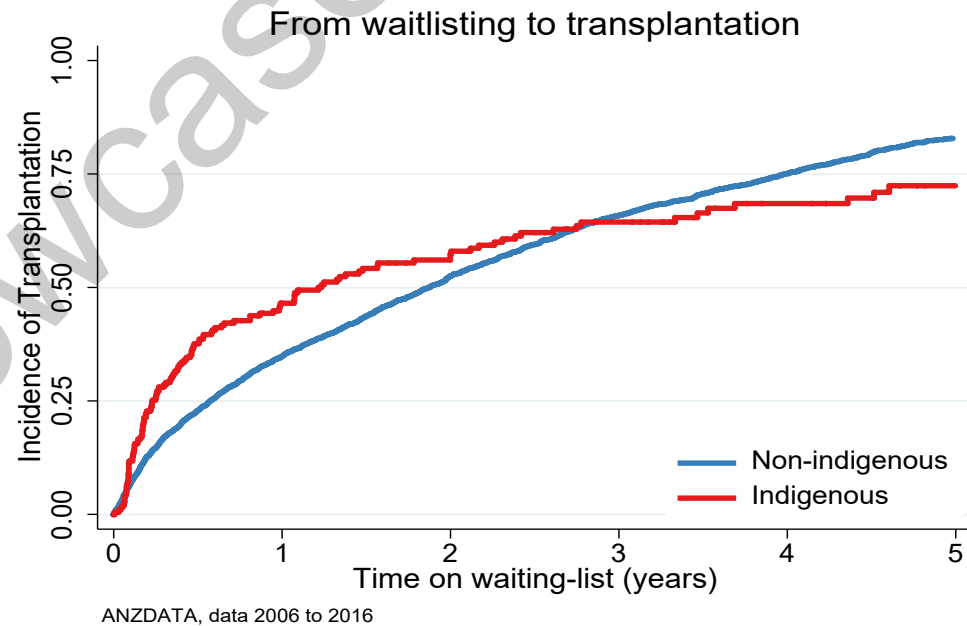
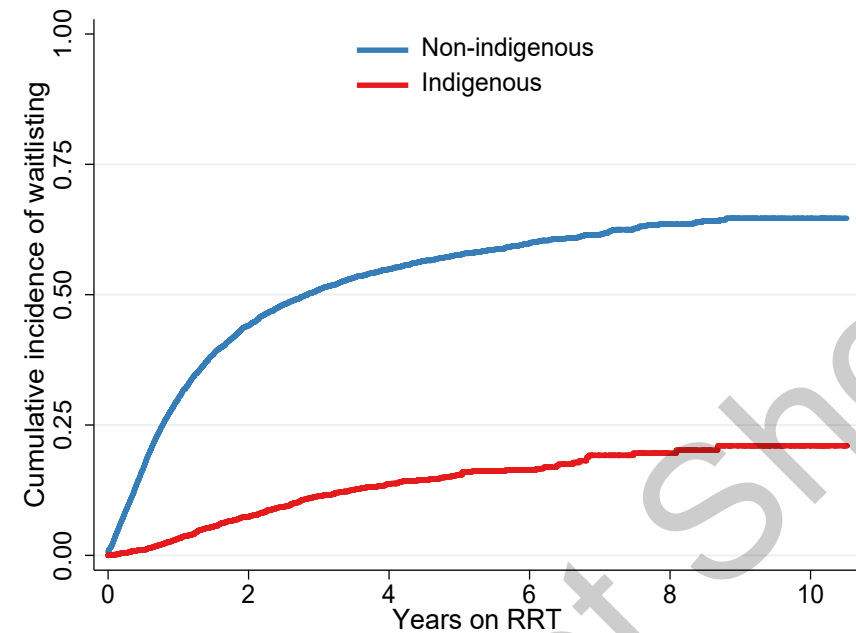


Prevalent Indigenous Australian Dialysis Patients 2018 by Statistical Area Level 3 (ANZDATA, 2019).

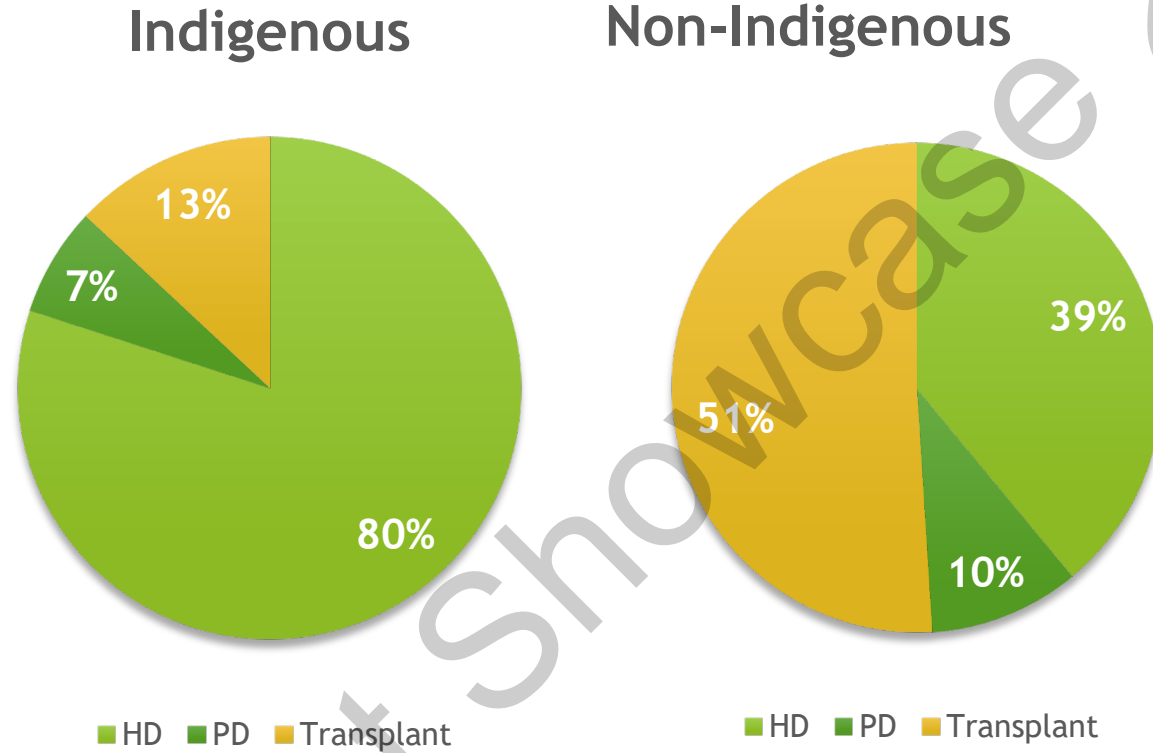
Steps to receiving a kidney transplant



Waitlisting vs allocation

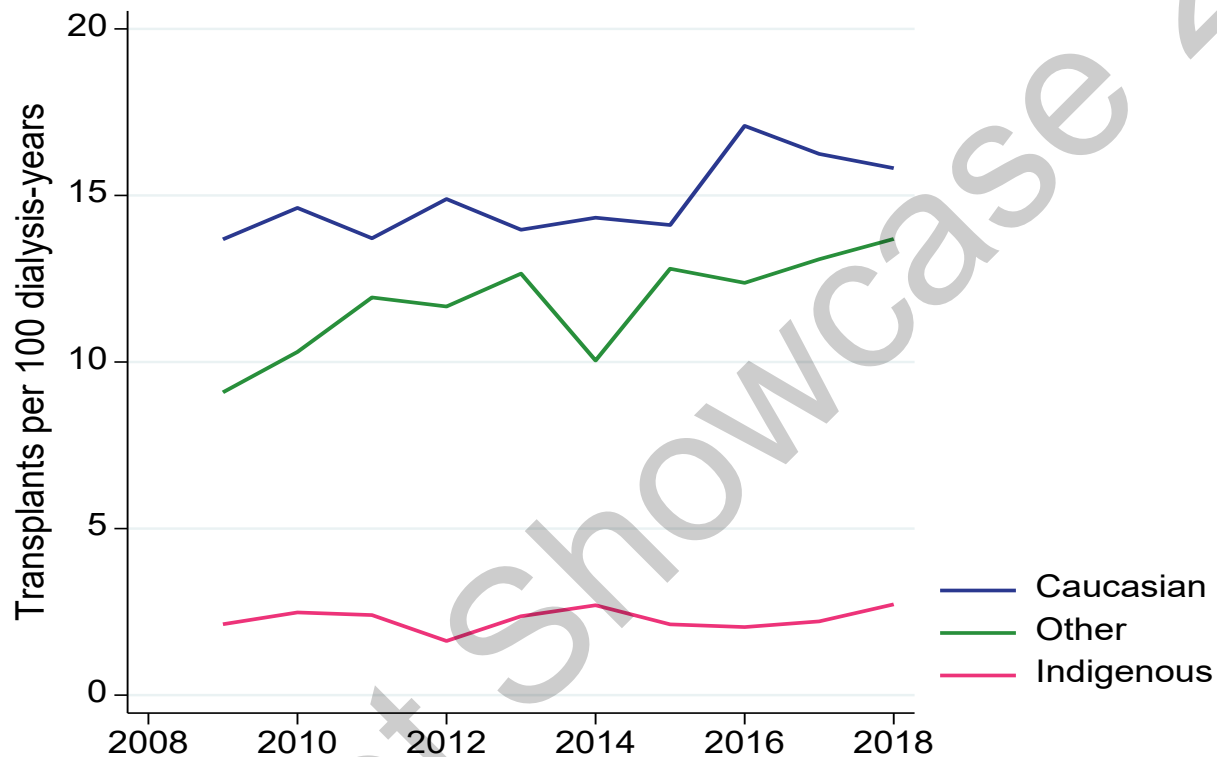


Current situation



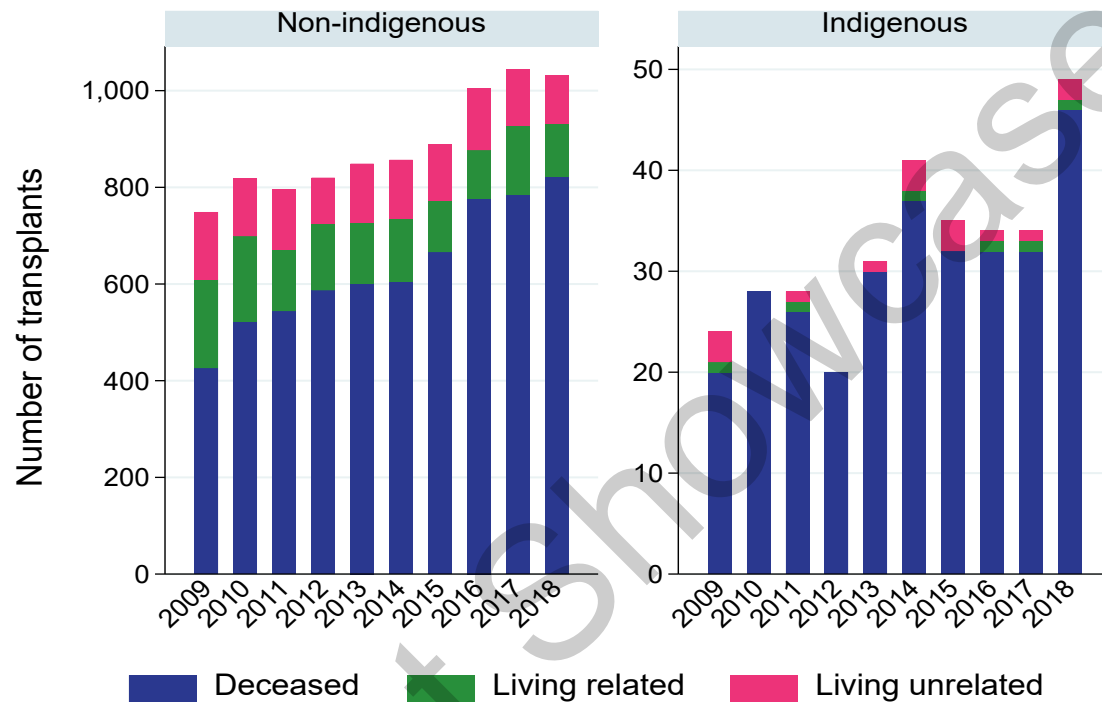
Prevalent Patients by Ethnicity and Treatment Modality, Australia, 2018 (ANZDATA, 2019).

Transplant Rate of Dialysed Patients



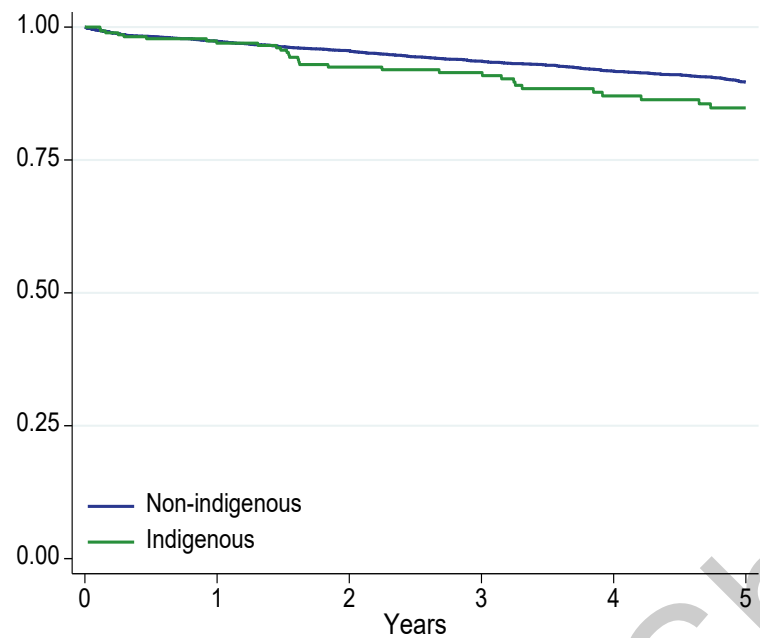
Transplant Rate of Dialysed Patients By Ethnicity, Patients Aged 15-64, 2009-2018 (ANZDATA, 2019).

Transplantation Activity

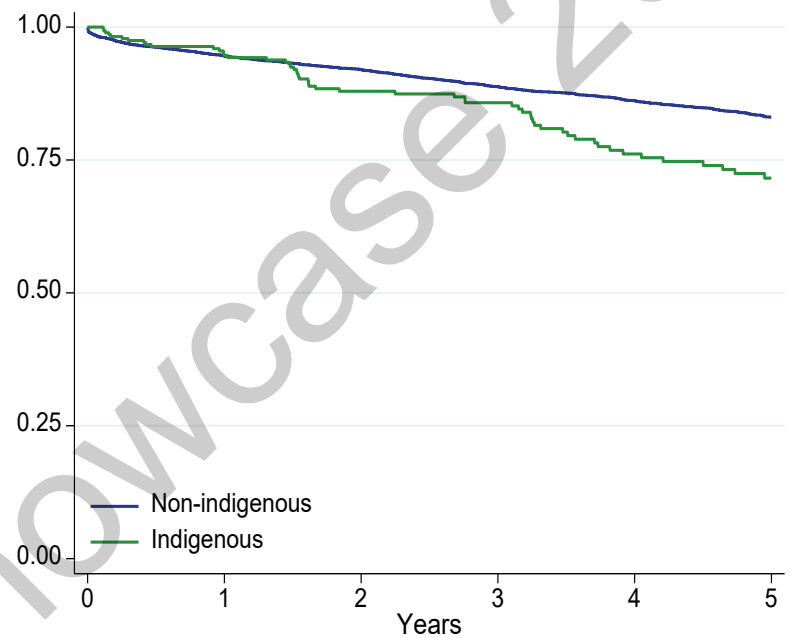


Donor Type by Ethnicity and Year (ANZDATA, 2019).

Post-transplant Issues

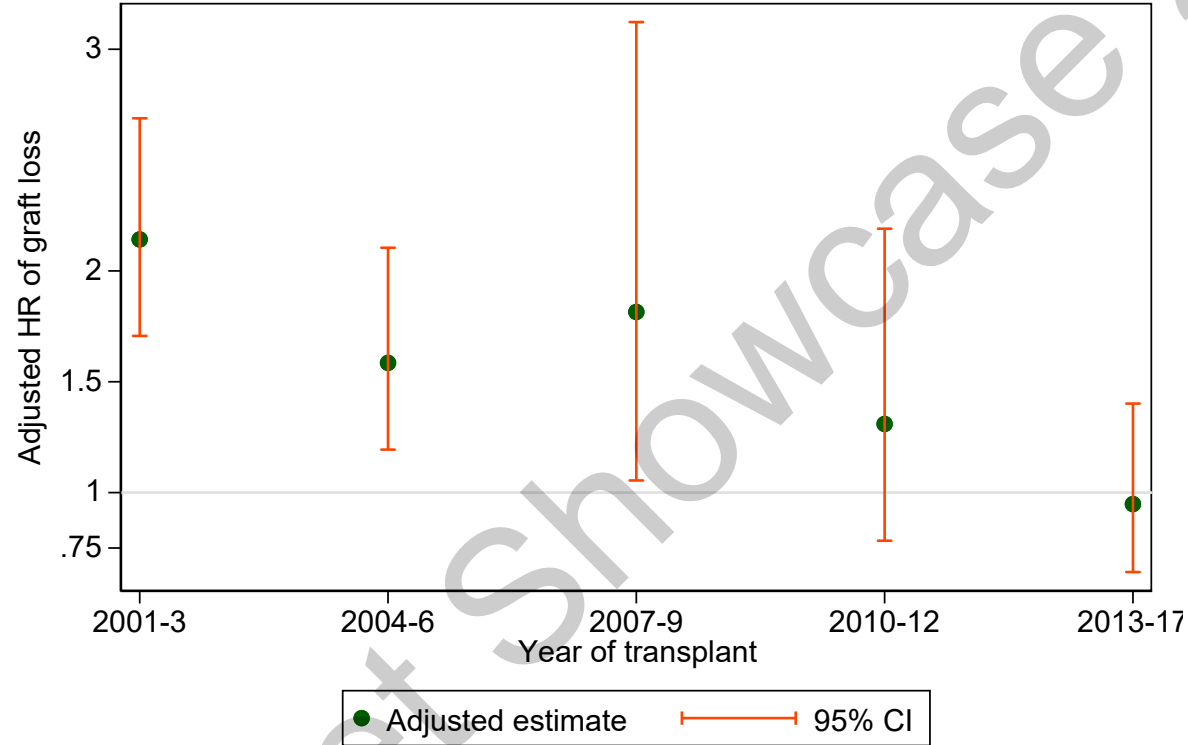


Primary DD Graft Patient Survival 2009-2018 (ANZDATA, 2019).



Primary DD Overall Graft Survival 2009-2018 (ANZDATA, 2019).

Outcomes are improving!



ANZDATA, indigenous DD1 recipients
Australia 2001-17

Establishing the NIKTT - Key Milestones

- ▶ **16 March 2018**, meeting with Minister Wyatt in Sydney.
- ▶ **22 March 2018**, funding submission provided to Minister Wyatt's office.
- ▶ **12 June 2018**, \$250k committed to establish an "Expert Panel".
- ▶ **4 March 2019**, Performance Report and funding submission submitted to Minister Wyatt's office.
- ▶ **11 March 2019**, \$2.3m committed to establish a National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce, responsible for implementing priority recommendations from the Performance Report.

Initial meeting with Minister Wyatt



TSANZ Performance Report

- ▶ Identified barriers and facilitators for kidney transplantation.
- ▶ Made 35 recommendations to address:
 - Evidence gaps
 - Practice gaps

Improving Access to and Outcomes of
Kidney Transplantation for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander People in Australia

Performance Report



TSANZ

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

Establishment of the National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT)



Meeting at the NIDTC, Alice Springs



NIKTT Objectives & Initiatives

Enhancing Data Collection and Reporting Processes

- Deliver a 12-month pilot project through the ANZDATA registry to enable the **collection and analysis of additional pre-transplant data points.**

Piloting initiatives to improve patient equity and access

- Catalyse the establishment of **Indigenous reference groups** in transplant units to help design pathways and models of care that are culturally appropriate.
- Trial and evaluate the efficacy of pre-transplant **patient navigator programs.**
- Trial models of care that **improve pre-transplant coordination.**

Evaluation of cultural bias initiatives

- Undertake a **review into existing initiatives that target cultural bias in health services** to facilitate the rollout of best practice pre-transplant care and support interventions.

Executed Equity and Access Sponsorships

Initiative Type	Funded Organisations
Strengthening the Aboriginal health workforce in renal settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top End Health Service (NT)• Pika Wiya Health Service (SA)
Indigenous patient mentors/navigators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (QLD)• Port Augusta Hospital and Health Service (SA)• Purple House (NT)
Multidisciplinary transplant outreach assessment for remote communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fiona Stanley Hospital (WA)• Royal Perth Hospital, in partnership with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (WA)
Targeted, culturally-appropriate kidney transplant outreach education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pika Wiya Health Service (SA)• Top End Health Service (NT)
Establishment of Indigenous Reference Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal Perth Hospital, in partnership with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (WA)
Audit of dialysis population data to determine barriers and delays in pre-transplant workup for Indigenous patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (QLD)

Where to next?



Acknowledgements

