

CLOSE THE GAP

Quarterly Newsletter || September 2022 || Issue 2

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the September edition of the 2022 Close the Gap Newsletter.

Please see the upcoming events, words from our Co-Chair, Commissioner June Oscar, and the fantastic work completed by Kidney Health Australia in collaboration with the Caring for Australians and New Zealanders with Kidney Impairment (CARI).

Also, a gentle reminder that the National Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for 17 November 2022. If you haven't already, please reply to the meeting invite. It is an in-person event but if you cannot make it, you can join via teams.

This meeting will be catered, so please contact the Executive Officer with any dietary requirements.

I hope to see you all there.

Happy reading!



The APA has released two series of its Deadly Physio Podcast.

Join proud Kamaroi man and APA member Cameron Edwards, as he has a yarn with Deadly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander physiotherapists from around Australia.

They share their personal stories about truth-telling, connection to Country, culture and language, the power of yarning, Reconciliation and Closing the Gap.

Featuring music from Iowendjeri Boonwurrung Kulin man Rudi Louis Taylor-Bragge and artwork by Emma Bamblett, a descendant from the Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmara, Ngadjonji and Taungurung people, discover the magic of the oldest living culture on the earth.

The link to the podcast can be found here:
<https://australian.physio/home/podcast-shows/deadly-physios>

The Campaign would like to thank outgoing CEO's and Directors for their time and dedication in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity and equality through their membership to our National Campaign - and we would like to welcome

Mr David Lloyd
National CEO - Heart Foundation

Ms Helen Roben
Acting CEO - Australian Indigenous Doctors Association

Ms Sarah Szydzik
CEO - Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia

We are excited to continue our work together.

Thank
you!

Upcoming events

The Fred Hollows Foundation

#Activate4Uluru CEO Forum

 The Fred Hollows Foundation

YOU ARE INVITED TO #ACTIVATE4ULURU

How can your organisation support the Uluru Statement from the Heart?

A CEO forum with The Fred Hollows Foundation, Sydney Peace Foundation and the Uluru Dialogue

DATE: Wednesday 16 November 2022, 12pm - 3pm (lunch will be provided)

VENUE: Gilbert + Tobin Law, Two, International Towers, Level 35 Tower/200 Barangaroo Ave, Sydney NSW 2000

RSVP: 21 October to hedwards@hollows.org (please advise of any dietary requirements)



An opportunity for CEOs across multiple sectors to come together in joint commitment and ideas sharing on supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a Constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

ANTAR Celebrating 25 Years

Next week ANTAR is celebrating 25 years working for justice, rights and respect for First Nations people—the anniversary of their first Sea of Hands and native title campaign.

Register to attend the ANTAR National Forum online or in person at Old Parliament House Canberra, 10am Wednesday 12 October and hear from a great lineup of speakers on VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH.



25 YEARS
Justice, Rights and Respect
antar.org.au

National Forum
12 October 2022, 10am
Old Parliament House
Canberra + livestreamed

Sea of Hands
13 October, 10am
Federation Mall

Uluru Dialogue Leader
Geoff Scott

Yoorrook Commissioner
Maggie Walter

National Native Title
Council CEO Jamie Lowe

Register to attend, in person spaces are limited: <https://getinvolved.antar.org.au/rsvp-for-national-forum>

Join ANTAR

Thursday 13 October from 10am on Federation Mall for a 25 years anniversary Sea of Hands event for VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH.

A Referendum on a Voice to Parliament

Words from our Co-Chair



In my role as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner I have been asked to be part of the Referendum Working Group for The Voice to Parliament.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with our members, my thoughts on why the yes campaign is so pivotal to creating the structural reform needed to propel a unified national approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.

Let me be clear, as a first step, The Voice, is about strengthening our democracy through enhanced participation. Through the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we have a remarkable opportunity, as a citizenry, to amend the Constitution so it is reflective of our shared and connected histories and identities.

There are, as always, a few voices rallying against progressive propositions. But the tussle between most, is not so much about where we are heading or what we are wanting the future state to be—most of us want less suffering and struggle, an end to discrimination, and guaranteed fairness and equality.

The dissent is about what should be done in policy and law and institutional arrangements to form these conditions. It is about the road we construct to take us there, and the practical steps for how change should take effect.

I believe entirely in the importance of structural reform as inseparable from practical grounded action. The evidence is before us, it has been our exclusion and the absence of our voices, that have led to uninformed systems, policies and legislation causing some of the gravest challenges we face today.

But if we get this right, we can break cycles of intergenerational marginalisation and trauma once and for all and finally reinvigorate cycles of intergenerational health and wellbeing.

Together, and only together, can we do this. There has never been a more urgent moment to see ourselves within the making of history.

You, each and every one of you can make your mark, can campaign, can vote 'yes' when the time comes and can take on the responsibility of committing to the Uluru statement and driving our nation forward.

I believe, I know, that the Uluru Statement and its full implementation can unite all Australians, to rise above self, and make a commitment about who we want to be and are prepared to become—a generous, courageous, and truthful nation.

Over the course of the next year there will be much dialogue, numerous events, and even neighbourly conversations about what this Referendum means. I encourage you all to engage with this dialogue, ask questions, give answers, but most of all be present in this discourse.

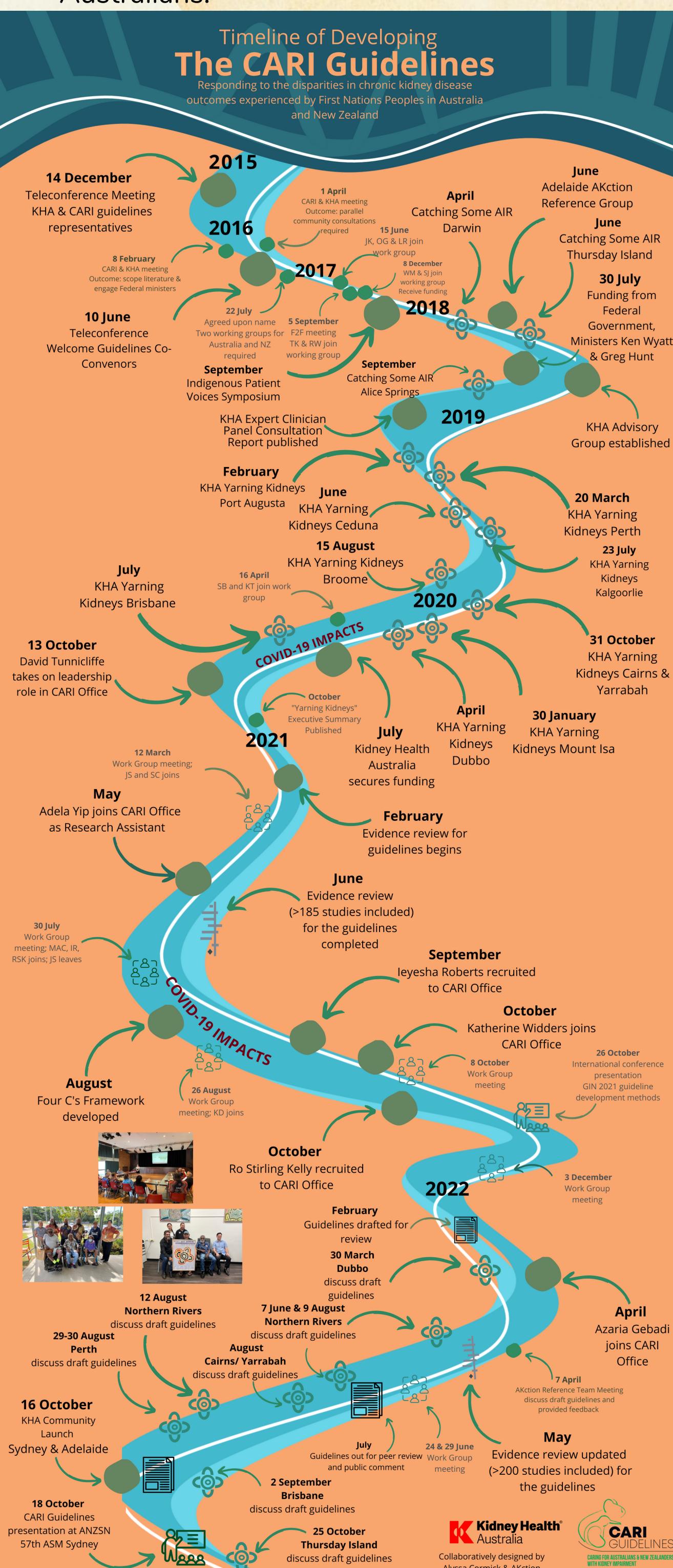
Every step we take matters, we have an opportunity to build a nation where we embrace one another, rejecting the fear and anger that festers along the lines of division, and together embark on this ever-evolving journey of nation-building.

June Oscar AO

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Social Justice Commissioner*

After a ground-breaking 4.5 year project that was founded upon broad clinical and community consultation and collaboration, the project has come to its completion.

The project culminates in the launch of the Recommendations for Culturally Safe Kidney Care for First Nations Australians.



The importance of the new Guidelines cannot be understated. Compared with the general population, First Nations Australians are twice as likely to develop kidney disease and nearly four times more likely to die from kidney disease. The disparity in kidney transplantation rates is stark, with only 13% of First Nations Australians with kidney failure receiving a transplant compared to 51% of non-indigenous Australians (ANZDATA Registry 2018).

These Guidelines are critical to improve the health of Indigenous Australians, addressing the persistent and disproportionate burden of chronic kidney disease.

The community-led project put First Nations Australians at the forefront. Yarnings were held all over the country and became the central driver of the guidelines. The two-phase process led with community Yarnings to understand the needs of the community, and then the guideline writing process was stage two. The result is Guidelines that are co-designed and underpinned by community voice.

The 80+ page Guidelines are outcome focused, providing tangible and meaningful recommendations to implement across multiple levels of the health system. Practically, it suggests removing race as a risk factor, earlier screening at 18 years and older, earlier referral to nephrologists, increased accommodation and transport services, and others.

The Guidelines project has been funded under the Australian Government's Indigenous Australian's Health programme and help Kidney Health Australia's efforts to create awareness and support for those living with kidney disease. One in five First Nations Australians have indicators of chronic kidney disease, yet almost 90% of those are not aware they have it.

This momentous project and Guidelines will be celebrated at simultaneous Clinical or Community launch ceremonies, on the 16th of October.

The Guidelines will be available post-launch online at the CARI website - www.cariguidelines.org

We welcome everyone to spread the word about the new guidelines and help both community members and healthcare practitioners to embrace the recommendations and bring better healthcare to First Nations Australians.

Visit kidney.org.au for the latest in kidney health in Australia.