



07 Aug 2017

Australian Financial Review, Australia

Author: Lucy Hughes Jones • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Audience : 47,179 • Page: 6 • Printed Size: 77.00cm² • Market: National
Country: Australia • ASR: AUD 1,557 • Words: 187 • Item ID: 823729035



 isentia.mediaportal

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

Page 1 of 1

Yunupingu's death was 'preventable'

Lucy Hughes Jones

Darwin | The loss of Australia's most prominent Indigenous musician Dr G Yunupingu to kidney disease has shone a light on the "largely preventable" renal health nightmare afflicting remote communities, his doctor says.

The 46-year-old blind Yolngu singer died last month in Darwin while having dialysis treatment, as there were no services available in his Galiwink'u community on Elcho Island.

His specialist Paul Lawton told the Garma Festival that many Indigenous Australians had to travel hundreds of kilometres for end-stage renal therapy, which he described as a "nightmare" akin to purgatory. "You're neither alive nor dead," he said.

Indigenous people were up to seven times more likely to need treatment for the chronic illness than non-Indigenous Australians.

This inequity was even worse for kidney transplants, Dr Lawton said.

"Compared to a non-Indigenous patient in Surry Hills in Sydney, an Indigenous patient with the same age and illness in Redfern right next door has a third of the chance of a kidney transplant," he said.

"An Indigenous patient from east Arnhem ... has a 10th of the chance of transplantation of a non-Indigenous person from east Arnhem."

AAP