

# TERRITORY KIDNEY CARE - JUNE 2022 UPDATE

## TKC Users of the Month



This month, we recognise TKC super-users Vimal Veena Varghese and Pushpa Jose at Flynn Drive Community Health Centre. Our Health Informatics Registered Nurse Paul Kamler ran Primary Care Information System (PCIS) training with the Flynn Drive team in May and got feedback on TKC. We are providing ongoing support to update their haemodialysis prescriptions in PCIS, which will enable efficiencies for the renal team.

# ACCHS Access Update



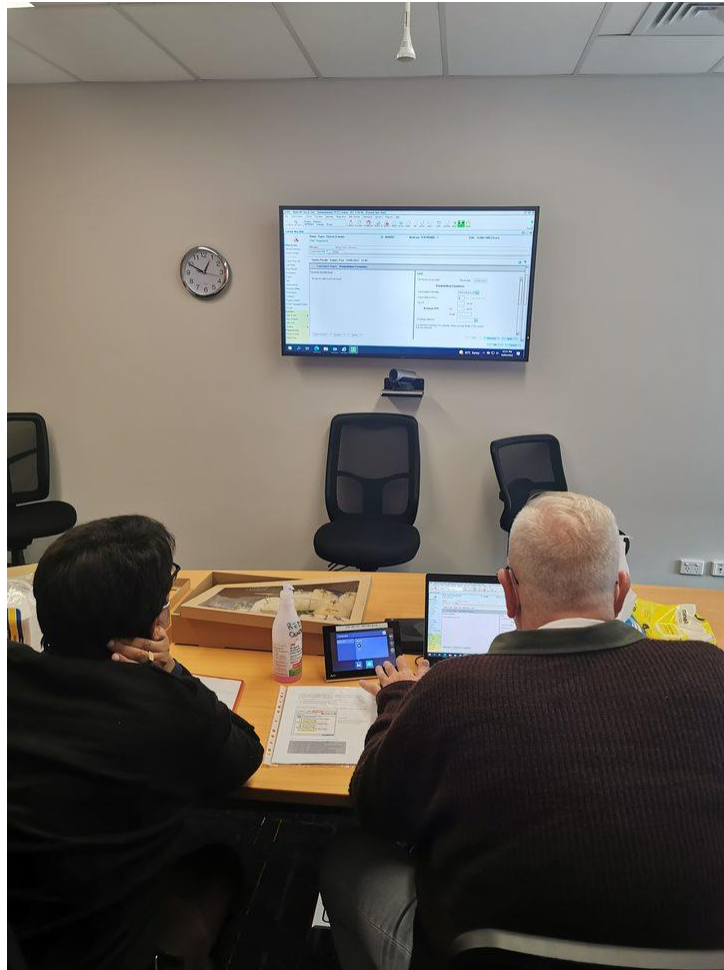
Partnering Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) are now able to apply for access to TKC for clinical care. Paul Kamler ran a demonstration and training with staff at Purple House in Alice Springs, including Dr Amanda Witford, Abbey Quonoey and Lauren Penman. Seeing how TKC integrates primary and tertiary health data, Lauren said, “this is game changing” for improving patient care.

# TKC Evaluation



We have started activities for the TKC evaluation, including time in motion studies with clinicians and interviews. Dr Gill Gorham observed how Dr Sajith Nayar used TKC and other systems at a CKD clinic in Alice Springs. In June, we will continue to observe clinics in the Top End with both clinicians that do not use TKC - to generate a baseline - and clinicians that do use TKC - to be able to measure the potential efficiencies of the platform.

# TKC Demonstrations



Over the past month, we have run several demonstrations of TKC to show how the system works and the tools that it offers clinicians.

Paul Kamler facilitated a demonstration with the nephrology consultants and registrars in Alice Springs. Dr Asanga Abeyaratne did a demo for Danila Dilba Health Service and Pandanus Medical in Darwin. Dr Gill Gorham also showed TKC to Pintupi Homelands Health Service.

# In the Media

Gillian Gorham manages the renal health program at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin and also attended the ceremony at Galiwin'ku.

Dr Gorham witnessed the benefits of getting elders back home to communities while working as a renal nurse and said that experience led her to investigate the cost benefits.

[Her study found remote dialysis could end up costing less than urban relocation](#), when taking into account the increased hospital attendance and missed appointments linked with shifting patients to urban centres.

"People talk very frequently about the depression and the loneliness they feel when they're living in town," she said.

"I think you can't underestimate how strong that is, that people have such a close connection to their land and their community and how without that they're whole social and emotional wellbeing is damaged."



Dr Gillian Gorham spent several years working as a renal nurse in the NT. (ABC News: Felicity James)

Dr Gorham also said her costing study did not factor in the extra social and financial costs of relocation, including the impact back in home communities of losing knowledgeable and skilled elders.

"If you start including those costs, then definitely relocation is not cost-effective," she said.

Dr Gorham said her findings had been shared with the NT Health Department.

Dr Gill Gorham attended the opening of the new dialysis unit on Elcho Island and talked to the ABC about her research into costs of remote dialysis and urban relocation, highlighting the importance of patients being able to stay on Country. By enabling data sharing between different health services, TKC can improve the patient journey for people on remote dialysis who may receive care from multiple providers, including renal services, primary health clinics and Purple House. Read the full story here:

[Elcho Island elders celebrate new dialysis nurse and treatment, bringing them home to families - ABC News](#)

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