



AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
NEPHROLOGY

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER, AND MĀORI HEALTH

STATEMENT

MARCH 2022

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, and the Māori peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand (Indigenous Peoples). ANZSN shares a vision to provide optimal kidney care for all people and aims to be a powerful voice for the kidney community. This statement affirms the commitment of the Society to improve kidney health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and outlines strategies to achieve this.

ANZSN acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, recognises their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their immense contributions to society, and pays respects to Ancestors and Elders, past and present. ANZSN is committed to supporting the broad intent and key strategies contained in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ANZSN acknowledges and respects iwi and hapū as tangata whenua of Aotearoa and is committed to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi). ANZSN strives to actively foster a strong relationship with Māori, support Māori members and improve the kidney health of Māori patients and their whānau as outlined by the New Zealand [Ministry of Health](#).

ANZSN supports Indigenous leadership, empowerment, self-determination and equity. Through education, research and advocacy, the Society is committed to promoting cultural safety and patient-centred kidney care with open mindedness, respect and empathy for the experiences of Indigenous peoples, their families and community.

ANZSN supports and endorses the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) strategies (through their [Indigenous Statements](#)) to develop and implement initiatives that improve health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples. These include a commitment to:

- Actively contribute to addressing health inequities affecting Indigenous peoples.
- Grow the Indigenous physician workforce.
- Equip and educate the broader physician workforce to improve Indigenous health.
- Foster cultural safety and competency in kidney care.

ANZSN acknowledges past and existing trauma and inequities experienced by Indigenous peoples that have resulted in disproportionate health burdens, experiences and outcomes. We acknowledge the lived experiences of Indigenous peoples which are abundant, diverse and deeply felt. These lived experiences often spread across multiple generations of the same family, many of whom are affected by chronic kidney disease in addition to diabetes and heart disease.

These conditions often require lifelong therapies with major life impacts, such as the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant. We recognise that this history and experience may contribute to Indigenous peoples holding a distrust towards government and health systems.



Actions of health care providers around kidney health affecting a single generation may have deep and meaningful implications for how future generations interact with the kidney care community. A decision now may profoundly affect generations to come. ANZSN is committed to promoting cultural safety and patient-centred provision of kidney care with open mindedness, respect and empathy for the experiences of Indigenous peoples, their families and community. ANZSN, through advocacy, education and research, seeks to address these inequities and work toward a more equitable, respectful, positive and empowering experience for Indigenous peoples in accessing and engaging in kidney care.

The Society has identified the following priorities to guide our work in improving kidney health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples.

Education

- 1.) Identify gaps in community education resources and review/develop through leadership and partnership with Indigenous Peoples.
- 2.) Use social media strategies to raise awareness about kidney disease in Indigenous communities.
- 3.) In collaboration with stakeholders, investigate kidney workforce mentorship programs aimed at increasing cultural safety in kidney care.
- 4.) Encourage and promote member use of RACP and other educational materials on cultural safety.
- 5.) Advocate for an increased number of Indigenous kidney care providers.
- 6.) Mentor and nurture future Indigenous leaders of the profession.

Research

- 1.) Develop Indigenous kidney health research projects and promote partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers and organisations.
- 2.) Develop research collaborations with Indigenous research methodologies.
- 3.) Encourage use of the [CONSIDER](#) statement in research involving Indigenous peoples.
- 4.) Actively support and promote research into the causes of, and solutions to, inequities in the access to and the outcomes of kidney health care and then promulgate the findings of such research to its members.

Advocacy

- 1.) Prominently acknowledge Indigenous peoples on the ANZSN website, and in documentation and communications relating to Indigenous peoples.
- 2.) Ensure Indigenous perspective is considered in the development of all ANZSN policies, documents and committee work.
- 3.) Develop robust partnership with the RACP and its Māori Health Committee and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee.
- 4.) Collaborate with and advocate on behalf of other organisations on issues relating to Indigenous kidney care.
- 5.) Actively identify barriers to equitable access to care and to equitable kidney health outcomes and advocate for change within the design and delivery of kidney care services and/or wider policy settings that are expected to address these barriers.

Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and our Policy and Quality Committee together with our Indigenous members including Dr Jaqui Hughes, Torres Strait Islander woman, and nephrologist, as well as other stakeholders and external consultants have contributed to this Statement. For nearly two years, this project has sparked many meaningful conversations and is an important catalyst for our future endeavours.

ANZSN Council is keen to ensure we deliver on a series of commitments in line with our strategic plan. We would like to thank everyone who has participated. More than words on paper, this document will become a barometer for ourselves and our industry to ensure that we reach and exceed all our commitments. We invite you to read the Statement above, and to share in our journey as it unfolds.