

# THE RAM PAGE

-AUGUST 2014-



- PRINTED QUARTERLY -

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## *Joke of the month*

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley motorcycle when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop.

The surgeon was there, waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his bike.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, fix 'em, put 'em back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic...

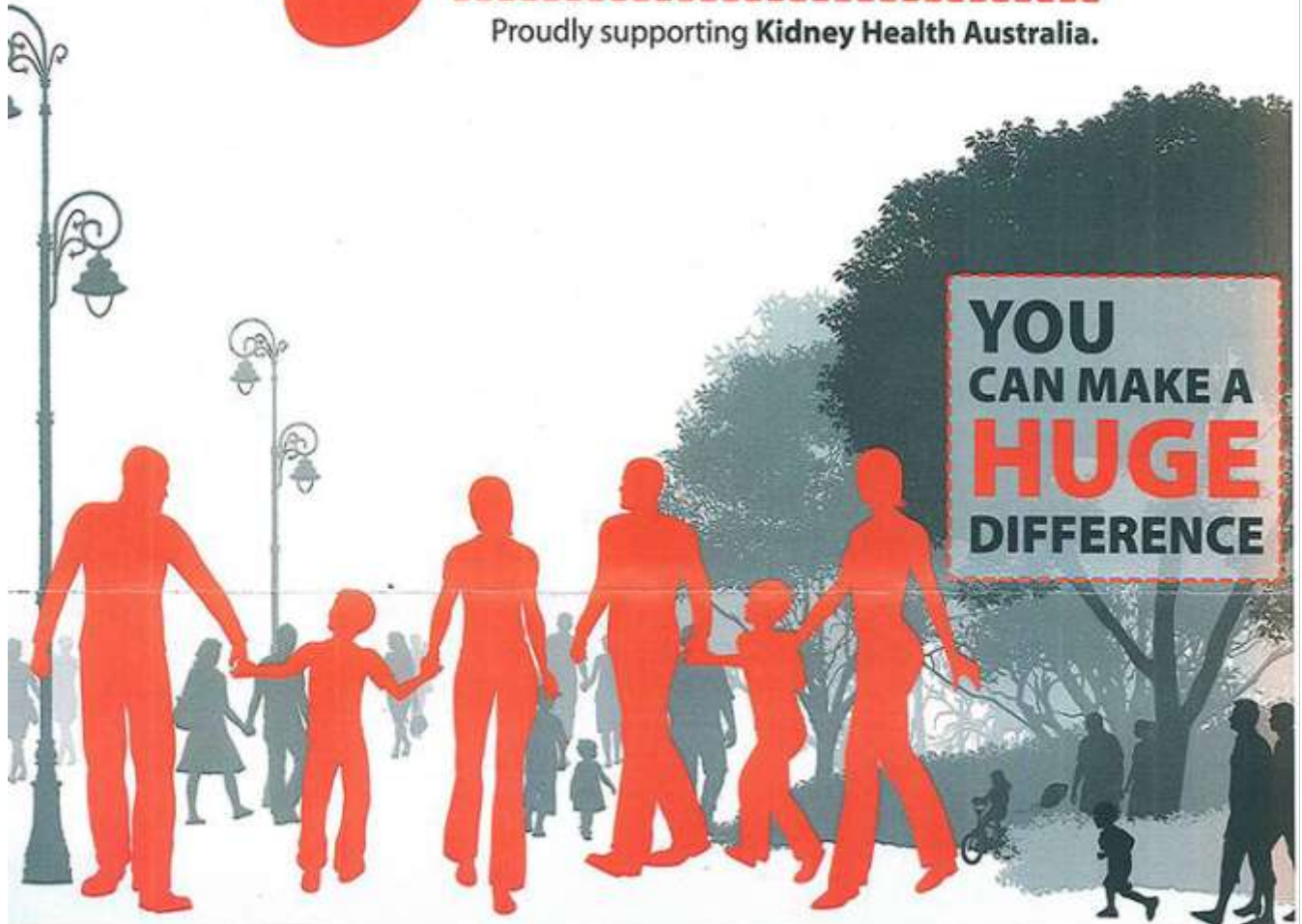
"Try doing it with the engine running."



**BIG RED KIDNEY**  
**WALK**

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Proudly supporting **Kidney Health Australia.**



**21 Sept – 11am**

Help us raise awareness and funds to support Kidney Health  
Walk the Lake Burley Griffin Central Basin loop - Start and Finish near the National Carillion.

**ENTRY FEES:** \$10 – individual; \$50 - for a team of 10; Children 12 years & under - free or by donation

To register go to <http://bigredkidneywalk2014.gofundraise.com.au/cms/canberra>.  
Donations can be made at <http://bigredkidneywalk2014.gofundraise.com.au/page/CBRKW>

A special time for the community to walk together  
and raise awareness and funds to support Australians  
affected by kidney disease.



# Renal Morning Teas

Come and Join us on  
Wednesday 13th August 2014  
From 10:30 to 12:00  
Hellenic Club Coffee Shop  
Matilda St, Woden

(Club membership preferred but not compulsory)

The Renal Morning Tea provides the opportunity to meet and make friends in a relaxed and informal setting. All renal patients, carers, family and friends are most welcome.

Any enquiries please contact:  
Jenny Watson (0431 099 394)  
John Kelly (0450 962 155)  
Louise Blue (0438 116 818)

Please Note – Coffee & tea provided by the Kidney Support Group. Cakes, sandwiches, etc., at regular club prices.



# INTRODUCING YOUR CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

*They Represent You on the Renal Advisory Meeting*



CARERS ON THE RAM AND ALSO THE  
CANBERRA REGION KIDNEY SUPPORT GROUP

CO-CHAIR  
JOHN SCOTT : 6255 1320

JOHN KELLY-EMAIL : CARERS@CRKSG.ORG.AU.

*"I am a Renal Transplant patient who has had Kidney disease since 1973. My kidney's finally failed in 1988. Over the years I have had Haemodialysis treatment both in-centre and at home as a home dialysis patient. I have been on the Renal Advisory Meeting from the beginning and am a former Senior Public Servant in the Commonwealth Health Department. I work privately in the area of risk identification and management"*

*"I am the carer of a renal transplant recipient. I am more than happy for people to contact me. Phone : 02 6231 4286. If I am not there please leave a message on how to contact you."*

CANBERRA COMMUNITY

DIALYSIS CENTRE

LOUISE BLUE : 0438 116 818

*"I have been on dialysis for nearly 4 years. I am happy to talk to people either by phone or directly over coffee etc. Please feel free to contact me or leave a message and I will get back to you"*

TRANSPLANTATION AND ACUTE

HAEMODIALYSIS

JENNY WATSON : 0431 099 394.

*"I have been a dialysis patient and a kidney recipient and I would be willing to talk to anyone if they want to contact me on the above phone number."*

## **YOU CAN BE ONE OF THE REP'S TOO**

The renal advisory meeting objectives are to provide a forum where mutual information, advice and assistance can be provided to both the staff and patients at the renal unit at the TCH that relate to issues that may arise that may assist with:

- ◆ understanding the needs of all stakeholders in the renal services
- ◆ identifying initiatives that may improve patient care and well being
- ◆ provide a forum where open communication can be established and distributed through various networks
- ◆ improve the services that are provided by ensuring that they are consumer driven and focused on improving outcomes.

We currently need consumer representatives from CCDC, Northside, 8A, PD and Home Therapies.

Generally there is one meeting each month, held in the Renal Administration area and takes about 1 hour of your time.

If you would like to become involved please contact this office and further information will be provided.

Email: [Elvira.Nikolic@act.gov.au](mailto:Elvira.Nikolic@act.gov.au)

## Seeking Consumers

A red speech bubble button with the text "Have a say!" in white.

**Are you on or approaching Dialysis or are you a carer/family member of some one that is?**

We are seeking consumers to participate in a focus group looking at how patients can be assisted in making a timely decision about their type of treatment i.e. haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis or conservative management.

If you are interested in being a part of this group or would like further information, please contact:



Alison Winsbury  
Nurse In Charge  
Renal Outpatients  
Ph 02 6244 3062

Email [Alison.Winsbury@act.gov.au](mailto:Alison.Winsbury@act.gov.au)

Or

Megan Hughes  
Chronic Kidney Disease Nurse  
Ph 61745090

Email [Megan.Hughes@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Hughes@act.gov.au)

## **New Dialysis Tender**

Renal Services is in the process of advertising for a new dialysis tender contract as the current one with Gambro is about to expire. This means that companies will be able to present a package to the Service which will include all those things necessary to carry out haemodialysis for our clients. A panel will determine which is the best arrangement and a contract will be signed. Peritoneal dialysis is not included in this contract.

Home haemodialysis will be a part of this contract but Renal Services is committed to ensuring that this will cause minimal disruption to our home dialysis clients and wish to assure you that clients who are on home dialysis now will continue to use the same machines they are using at present regardless of the outcome of the tender negotiations. Renal Services will keep you informed about the progress of the negotiations and the final outcome. You can find out more information by contacting your representative in RAM or asking one of your dialysis nurses.

If you have any concerns please call:

Anne on 62444399 or 0411477064

