



Media Release: EY Review + NIKTT Equity & Access Sponsorships

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) welcomes the release of the Review of the Australian organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system Final Report (Final Report), which was commissioned by the COAG Health Council in April 2018. The Final Report's 57 recommendations are focused on addressing pressures and system gaps that have been generated by increased donation activity and ensuring the sustainability of Australia's organ donation and transplantation services. The Commonwealth will rigorously assess these recommendations by engaging a committee of government officials representing all jurisdictions and the Organ and Tissue Authority. This committee will drive the development of a national strategy, centered around three key priorities:

- developing a national strategy to meet the expected increase in organ transplantation volumes;
- improving governance to optimise future growth and sustainability of the donation, retrieval and transplantation system; and
- developing a nationally-driven approach to focus and improve organ donation and transplantation rates and outcomes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and Australians who live in rural and remote locations.

TSANZ welcomes the report and intends to work collaboratively with this committee to inform the future strategy.

As Chair of the OrganMatch Strategic Governance Committee (OMSCG), I was very pleased to see that OrganMatch has been identified in the Review as the platform to implement 9 of 57 recommendations in the Review. The OMSGC provides national governance over our national organ matching and allocation system and the Committee is focused on supporting and prioritising future enhancements to drive clinical best practice and efficiencies across the sector.

In 2019, the Commonwealth provided \$2.3 million to the TSANZ to establish a National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT). The NIKTT's primary objective is improving access to kidney transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which is closely aligned with the third priority identified by the Final Report.

To facilitate the attainment of this objective, the NIKTT recently ran an Equity & Access Sponsorship round, which commenced on 26 November 2019 and closed on 10 January 2020. Fifteen applications were received, with a focus on initiatives that breakdown barriers to kidney transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The NIKTT is pleased to announce that sponsorships have been offered totaling \$1.04 million. These initiatives span across four jurisdictions and include: delivery of outreach kidney transplant education and assessment in rural and remote areas; establishment of transplant-focussed patient mentor pilot projects and Indigenous reference groups; and strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce in kidney transplant settings.

In addition to these initiatives, the NIKTT has made significant advancements in progressing projects that will enhance data collection and reporting and identify the impact of cultural bias interventions in health services. A more detailed report outlining the NIKTT's progress to date can be accessed on the TSANZ [website](#). Going forward, the NIKTT will publish annual progress updates for each sponsorship initiative to ensure this information is available to all stakeholders.