



Better Renal Services Steering Committee

Meeting 3 Communique

20 February 2024

Introduction

The Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Steering Committee (the Committee) provides advice on the implementation of the Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Measure (the Measure). The Measure will provide \$73.2 million to fund up to 30 four-chair dialysis units, including workforce accommodation where required, to provide life-saving health care to First Nations Australians with end-stage kidney disease.

Summary of discussion

The Co-Chair provided an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed Members to Meeting 3.

The Co-Chair provided an overview of the proposed methodology for community data collection to enable site selection for Round 3. The Committee discussed timelines and the intention to have recommendations to take to the Minister for Health and Aged Care for decision by 30 June 2024 to meet grants administration timeframes.

The Committee discussed the community information template which will be used to support communities to self-identify need. The secretariat will update the template with discussed changes and circulate for endorsement out of session. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process will occur in April 2024. NACCHO and DoHAC channels will be used to promote the EOI. Additionally, members were encouraged to promote through their own communication channels.

The Committee agreed that two separate webinars will be hosted in March 2024, to assist communities with preparing their EOI applications. One webinar will be co-hosted by NACCHO and DoHAC to explain the template and process, the other will be aimed at community-controlled groups to discuss how dialysis can work in remote communities. The webinars will be recorded to allow sharing with people who are unable to attend. The EOI template and further information will be published on the DoHAC website.

Following the EOI process, a shortlist of potential communities for further consideration will be developed. The Committee agreed that a range of criteria will be useful for shortlisting, as outlined on the template, and that the Secretariat would develop and circulate a methodology paper out of session. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat will undertake initial assessment and scoring, which will be discussed and moderated by members. The possibility of exclusion criteria was discussed, with the Committee agreeing the only criteria that would exclude an EOI from progressing for further consideration is the absence of a primary health care facility (clinic or hospital) with no established pathway for emergency

evacuation. The committee will discuss the shortlist to decide whether they may require additional information or clarification from communities at the following committee meeting.

Outcomes

- Members discussed the draft community information template.
- Members discussed and agreed on a plan for community data collection and methodology for Round 3 site selection.

Next Meetings

- The fourth meeting of the Committee will be held on 8 May 2024.
- The fifth meeting of the Committee will be held in June 2024.