



# Better Renal Services Steering Committee

## Meeting 4 Communique

8 May 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 (Better Renal Services measure). The Measure will provide \$73.2 million to fund up to 30 four-chair dialysis units, including workforce accommodation where required, to provide dialysis on Country 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 4.

Assistant Minister Malarndirri McCarthy attended the first half of the meeting to discuss key challenges for kidney health and the delivery of the Better Renal Services measure.

The Steering Committee Members raised issues with the Minister including the need for ongoing funding for further dialysis units throughout Australia, the need for joined up services to provide more holistic care, and the need for investment in preventative health to prevent First Nations people from progressing to renal failure.

The Co-Chair provided an overview of the EOI process for Round 3 and summarised the EOIs that have been received to date. Eight EOIs were received from the Northern Territory, two from Queensland, and three from Western Australia. It was noted that there are additional EOIs still expected to be received.

The Committee noted that there were no EOIs received from South Australia or New South Wales. The Committee considered how it could support communities to consider submitting EOIs before its next meeting.

The Committee discussed the need to refine the selection criteria and methodology to grade EOIs to enable the committee to make recommendations. The Secretariat will work with communities that have information gaps in the information provided and circulate a methodology paper out of session. The Secretariat will provide initial rankings of sites for the committee to discuss at the next meeting.

### Outcomes

- Members had the opportunity to raise issues regarding First Nations kidney health directly with Assistant Minister McCarthy.

- Members discussed the need to refine methodology in order to be able to recommend sites for Round 3, which will be agreed out of session.
- Members agreed that the secretariat will work with communities to identify information gaps in EOI applications.
- The Department and NACCHO will engage with state representatives to discuss the measure and EOI process, and to support communities to submit further EOIs.

## Next Meeting

- The fifth meeting of the Committee will be held on 26 June 2024.