



Better Renal Services Steering Committee

Meeting 5 Communique

26 June 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 5.

The Co-Chair and Sarah Brown provided an update on the 18 June official opening event at the Coober Pedy Dialysis Unit, as the first dialysis unit funded under the Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Budget Measure. The event was attended by Assistant Minister McCarthy, Sarah Brown, representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care, and many members of the Coober Pedy community.

In the context of considering community prioritisation for Round 3 sites for future dialysis units the Department's Co-Chair advised that remaining funding is approximately \$18.5 million (in 2024-25 and 2025-26), which is potentially enough for 5–8 sites (approximate estimates of \$3 million per site, \$5 million for an 8 chair site, and some sites expected to have a lower cost). Members considered as many EOIs as possible but there was insufficient time to comment on all of the submissions. It was agreed that a further meeting, scheduled for 15 July, is necessary to complete the deliberations and finalise the prioritised list of communities for recommendation for Round 3 funding.

Outcomes

- The Secretariat to provide transparent information regarding operational costs to interested communities.
- The Committee to re-convene for a further meeting, on 15 July, to complete the deliberations and finalise the prioritised list of communities for recommendation for Round 3 funding.
- Co-Chairs and Secretariat to consider initial revisions to the Forward Work Program and progress it out-of-session with Members (as time in the meeting did not permit consideration of this agenda item).

Next Meeting

- The sixth meeting of the Committee will be held on 15 July 2024.