

Home Dialysis Update

A triannual newsletter published by The HOME Network
Edition 9—July 2020



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Welcome to the ninth edition of *Home Dialysis Update*, our newsletter from The HOME Network

It's crazy how fast time flies and how things progress. COVID-19 has affected our daily life and the last few months has been life changing for healthcare. Over the coming months we will begin to see just how much we have adapted and evolved. Thinking positively, this period can become an opportunity for us to share and learn from one another and embed some of these great ideas and innovations into our services as we move forward. I also notice how supportive, generous and passionate the community has become. These acts of kindness have allowed us to help others at a time when they have needed it most.

On another positive note, the pandemic and its consequences have accelerated a number of pre-existing trends in the healthcare sector among the workforce, including increased use of telehealth. This edition of the newsletter highlights The HOME Network Telehealth & Remote Monitoring Start-up Tool Kit (THN-TERMS) which has been developed between THN and telehealth industry partners. You will also be provided with an update of the TEACH-PD trial and a number of other initiatives and messages from our members.

Finally, despite the many challenges that 2020 has presented so far, we can take heart at the optimism and how these changes can benefit our home dialysis patients. Just keep asking: "What could you and The HOME Network do?"



Toolkit supports Healthcare Professionals to deliver telehealth for Renal Patients

Do you want to set up a telehealth solution or a healthcare app for your patients? The New Technology and Initiative Working Group of The HOME Network has developed a toolkit for healthcare professionals who are considering using telehealth or a healthcare app to provide remote monitoring services or education programs for their patients living with kidney disease. The HOME Network Telehealth & Remote Monitoring Start-up Tool Kit (THN-TERMS) provides information on what features and activities to consider as part of your telehealth or app program development; how to put together a budget and a business case, a template project plan and an example of a Gantt chart (a schedule of tasks). There is also a list of current telehealth systems in Australia, although it is not necessarily a complete list of providers and apps. We encourage you to conduct your own research to see what else is out there. We felt there was a need to provide healthcare professionals with some basic knowledge on how to get started with a telehealth or app based care program. Additionally, through contact with *The HOME Network* you will also be able to share ideas and experiences with others who have been there and done that, and learn from industry experts, what works, what doesn't, and barriers to anticipate.



For more information click on the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZW8Z972> or email contact@homenetwork.com.au or visit our website: <http://www.homenetwork.net.au/>.

The HOME Network Member Profile



Name: Carol Armstrong, WA

Role: Joined in 2019

What is your role and where are you from?

My current role is "Patient Liaison Nurse" for the Western Australia Home Dialysis Program. This is a diverse role, but the main focus is following home dialysis patients who get admitted to hospital, ensuring a clear communication path between the hospital and home dialysis team which in turn provides optimal patient care during the hospital stay and post discharge. I am also involved with pre dialysis education and assessment of patients who wish to enter the Home Haemodialysis program and it is here that I can advocate for patients and help to grow the home program .



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How long have you been a member of The HOME Network:

I was appointed last year (2019) but have been following the work of the HOME Network from a distance for many years.

What prompted you to join The HOME Network:

I have been passionately involved in home dialysis for the past ten years. I have listened to my colleague (current member) talk for many years about the great work this Network does. When an expression of interest came up last year to join this motivated group of people, I was very excited to apply and lucky enough to be accepted.

What projects have you been involved in:

As a new member I am yet to play an active part but will be involved in the next project:

"Impact of COVID-19 on home dialysis patients".

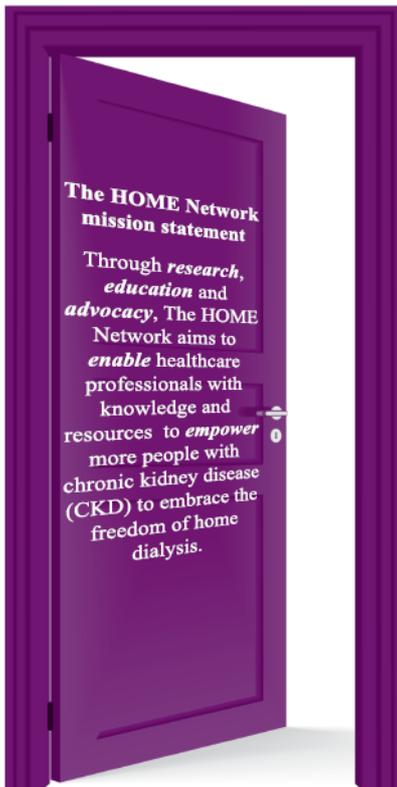
Future plans with The HOME Network:

I was lucky enough to attend the 10th year anniversary celebrations of the HOME Network in Canberra earlier this year which allowed me to meet this dynamic team face to face. Everyone is so dedicated to promoting home dialysis and supporting the patients and this is infectious. I am excited to be a part of our newest project and look forward to working with this great group of people.

The HOME Network: who are we?

By Josephine Chow, Chairperson

The HOME Network is a national initiative that brings together a solution-focused group of home dialysis healthcare professionals from across Australia & New Zealand (ANZ). The group draws upon all levels of evidence to provide insights and practical options for colleagues throughout ANZ to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis.



Since its establishment in 2009, the HOME Network has had considerable successes in developing resources for patients and healthcare professionals in line with its objectives and making optimal use of members' time available to commit to projects.

Through a directed process of reflection and analysis of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, the HOME Network has refined its vision and mission to identify solutions and strategies to promote and enhance home dialysis.

Today, members are committed to driving outcomes aligned with the group's renewed strategy and working towards achieving our overall mission statement "Through research, education and advocacy, the HOME Network aims to enable healthcare professionals with knowledge and resources to empower more people with chronic kidney disease to embrace the freedom of home dialysis".

The HOME Network has been working within three focus areas:

- **Healthcare Professional Education:** Improved awareness, knowledge and training about home dialysis for healthcare professionals.
- **Patient Factors:** Targeted action that enables healthcare professionals to address factors impacting on the ability of Australians with CKD to embrace the freedom of home dialysis.
- **Technology and new initiatives:** Support for new initiatives and technologies that strengthen home dialysis utilisation as part of establishing flexible and innovative models of care that strengthen support for people on home dialysis including their carers.

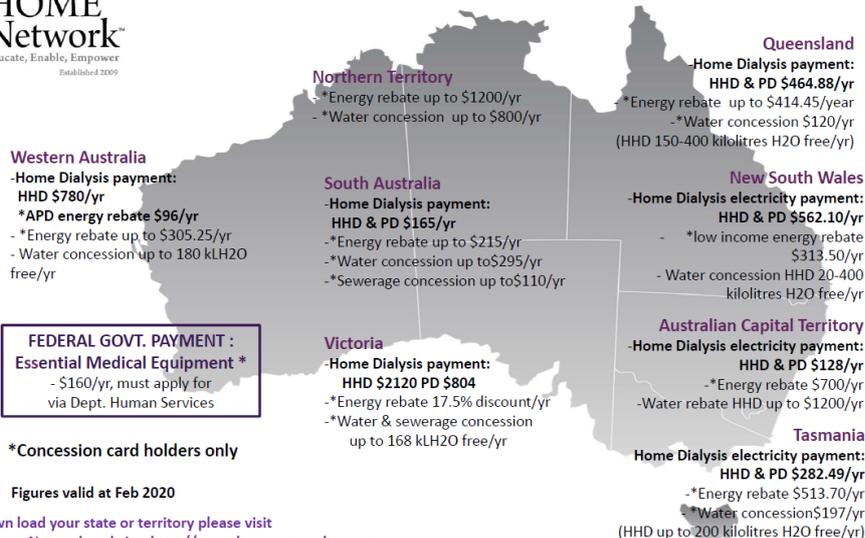
Working in these three focus areas is part of our continuing campaign to drive increased uptake of home dialysis across Australia support as we work together to keep pushing for world class home dialysis care for our patients.

Financial Fact Sheets 2020

Since 2011, the Financial Taskforce of The HOME Network have developed State and Territory specific financial support fact sheets which provide information about the financial concessions and payments available to people at home on dialysis. This financial assistance available for people at home on



Financial support for people on home dialysis



dialysis differs for each State and Territory in Australia. These fact sheets have acted as an enabler to support financial lobbying activity.

The fact sheets have been reviewed and updated for 2020 and the update versions have been uploaded onto The HOME Network Website.

Find out more on The HOME Network website:

<http://www.homenetwork.net.au/>

TEACH-PD Update - A Targeted Education Approach to improve Peritoneal Dialysis Outcomes Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial (TEACH-PD CRCT)

Co-Principal Investigator: Professor Josephine Chow & Professor Neil Boudville
Lead, THN Healthcare Professional Education Group: Melinda Tomlins

The TEACH-PD training curriculum and material have been developed by a core group of renal nurses from THN in conjunction with senior medical clinicians from the Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN), eLearning curriculum developers, consumer representatives, and education experts, in line with the ISPD guidelines, utilising modern adult learning principles and best practice eLearning techniques.

Current status of progress

After a two-month recruitment pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trial Steering Committee is pleased to say that the trial is steaming along again with active recruitment, site training and site openings a-plenty. June 2020 has been exceptionally busy, with four new sites opened. To date, there are 20 sites in Australia and New Zealand randomised and with most of them already activated and recruiting patients. There are another 10 sites with pending on the local governance approval and more sites to be working on with their local governance submission.

The trial is integrated into usual clinical practice and no face-to-face study visits are required. Follow-up of the enrolled participants is unlikely to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ClinicalTrials.gov Registry:

Acknowledgements



The HOME Network – Call for Expression of Interest for Membership



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The HOME Network (THN) invites applications from motivated renal nurses or renal allied health workers to join THN. Priority will be offered to applicants from the following States/Territories:

- Australia Capital Territory
 - Northern Territory
 - South Australia
 - Tasmania
- And also
- New Zealand



THN provides advocacy and education regarding home dialysis to health professionals nationwide and in doing so, aims to enable health professionals to gain the knowledge and motivation needed to promote home dialysis within their workplace. We also aim to address issues involving equity and availability of services for people with chronic kidney disease and to enable and empower them to undertake dialysis in their own homes.

Members of THN are committed to attending the annual workshop and participate in activities and projects to support THN.

To express your interest to be a member of this dynamic Network, please email Josephine Chow via Josephine.chow@health.nsw.gov.au for a copy of the Expression of Interest Form.

Expressions of interest including the completed Expression of Interest Form and brief Curriculum Vitae plus contact details for two professional referee, to be forwarded to Josephine.chow@health.nsw.gov.au.

All enquiries to be forwarded to Josephine Chow, Chair of The HOME Network at Josephine.chow@health.nsw.gov.au.

Expressions of interest will close at **5:00pm, 30 September 2020**.

COVID-19

By the THN Special Working Group

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the THN Special Working Group has been meeting virtually and planning a nurse survey to understand and share insights about the impact of COVID-19 on home dialysis via a white paper-style publication. The proposed research questions we want to ask are:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has little impact on patients who do home dialysis (because they dialyse at home).
- The COVID-19 pandemic is driving increased DEMAND for home dialysis options.



As part of that we would also like to explore:

- How home dialysis benefits patients and health care systems during the pandemic because they can stay at home.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the ability to train patients to go home and changes that have been implemented to ensure training can progress during social distancing and restrictions/lockdown.
- What we need to do to prepare for subsequent waves during the COVID-19 pandemic or subsequent pandemics that may occur in future.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

When the Associate Members sign up, they are asked to share the question “Why are you passionate about home dialysis?” **Find out below some of the responses.**



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“In order to take patients home to country to do their dialysis, therefore they aren't having to relocate just to have treatment!” (PD Nurse, NT)

“I am passionate about improving outcomes and quality of life for my patients, by supporting them in their renal journey to self manage their chronic condition” (Renal Nurse, New Zealand)

“Home dialysis is the best way to optimise patients' independence and productivity and enables them to take control/ responsibility of their health. It is a win win for both the patients and the health system” (Nephrologist, NSW)

“Home dialysis gives patients the freedom to do dialysis at home at a time that suits them the most, without having to go to hospital or a dialysis center on a regular basis. They need all the time they have left on earth to spend time with their loved ones (family) and doing the things they really love to do (PD Nurse/Case Manager)

“I treat lots of patients and believe that home therapies are better and easier to be managed” (Nephrologist, QLD)

New associate members continue to come in as a result of our newsletters being sent out. Feedback about the newsletters has been very positive and has influenced how we continue to put together our newsletters. If you know of any colleagues who may be interested in reading our newsletter, please forward a copy and let them know how they too can join as an associate member (see below for more information).

The **HOME Network's website** at www.homenetwork.net.au is a great place to go find out about our past and current projects underway in this exciting area. We have recently added some new resources and publications to the website. You can also email Josephine Chow (the HOME Network Chairperson) at contact@homenetwork.net.au for more information about the HOME Network and the group's activities.

Finally, if you have any **news relevant to home dialysis to share**, please email the editor at news@homenetwork.net.au.

Share your big idea!



At the HOME Network, we aim to increase HCP networking and to share some of the novel ways in which we as healthcare professionals are making a difference for our CKD patients. Often, there are fantastic projects underway locally that we believe deserve a national platform for sharing.

Help us by sharing your ideas and ways in which you are supporting your CKD patients to choose the home dialysis option! Please email the editor at news@homenetwork.net.au to share your big idea. We will publish a selection of great ideas in each newsletter. Please include your contact details so that colleagues may get in contact to learn more.

(And... stay tuned for more news about how we plan to support the sharing of ideas in future!)

Join the HOME Network as an associate member!

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of the HOME Network newsletter, *Home Dialysis Update*. It's an exciting time for the HOME Network and home dialysis. If you're not already an Associate Member, now is your chance to join us!

As an associate member, you will receive our newsletters containing articles, information and advances in the field of home dialysis as well as information about upcoming events. This is also the first place you will hear about our new projects starting – your chance to get involved in a project that you feel passionate about.

To join as an associate member, use this link to enter your details: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SKX2TSD>

Please share this link with any healthcare professional who you think would be interested in joining as well.

Acknowledgements

The HOME Network would like to thank the following members and supporters for their time and input into the development of this Edition of the *Home Dialysis Update* newsletter: Caroline McNaught (Editor), Jerome Pong, Lisa Capamagian, Carol Armstrong, Rosie Simmond and Josephine Chow. We would also like to acknowledge our ongoing partnership with the Kidney Health Australia, the Renal Society of Australasia and the Australasian Kidney Trials Network.