

# Home Dialysis Update

A triannual newsletter published by The HOME Network  
Edition 19 — NOVEMBER 2023



## The HOME Network

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

By Josephine Chow, CF, Chairperson

Welcome to the November 2023 edition of The HOME Network (THN) Newsletter.

I am excited to announce that the TEACH-PD Trial has reached the end of the participant enrolment; *we are definitely seeing the end of the tunnel!* Check out the details in this Newsletter.

Stay tuned for more updates from the members of THN as I will shortly seek feedback from everyone in preparing for our missions in 2024. *Your feedback would also be greatly appreciated on the Newsletter and works from THN via our generic email address: [news@homenetwork.net.au](mailto:news@homenetwork.net.au).*

*Guess what!* Two years up and we have just updated the Financial Fact Sheets (THN's signature piece!) and these are now uploaded on THN website. You can also find out more about our initiatives, as well as plan your trips to the various global renal conferences scheduled for 2024.

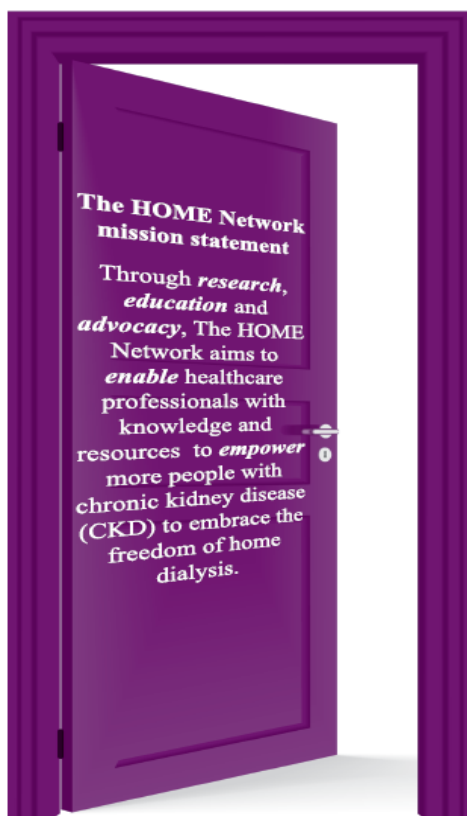
On a personal note we farewell our ACT member, Allyson Calvin, and congratulate her on her wonderful career as she eagerly looks forward to her retirement. Thank you, Allyson, for all that you have done for THN.

As this year draws to a close, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!

---

## The HOME Network: Who are we?

By Josephine Chow, CF, Chairperson



The HOME Network (THN) 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 uptake of home dialysis.

Since its establishment in 2009, THN 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.

The vision and mission of THN is to identify solutions and strategies to promote and enhance home dialysis. Our members are committed to driving outcomes aligned with the group's strategy and working towards achieving our overall mission statement, which is: *"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, as follows:

- 1) Improved awareness, knowledge and training about home dialysis for healthcare professionals;
- 2) Early and ongoing education for patients about home dialysis as part of a standard model of care; and,
- 3) Support for new initiatives and technologies that strengthen home dialysis utilisation.

As we strive to achieve world-class home dialysis care for our patients, we continually work on these three focus areas as part of our comprehensive campaign to drive increased uptake of home dialysis.

## Our website highlights in this edition

- ☉ **TEACH-PD Trial has reached the end of the participant involvement.**
- ☉ **The HOME Network has recently attracted worldwide attention and has been mentioned and acknowledged in a number of professional newsletters and forums across the globe.**
- ☉ **MY CHIT CHAT TIME RECIPES.**  
*Begin cooking nutritious recipes today. We continue to work together to explore opportunities to create healthy meals for individuals with kidney disease.*
- ☉ **Refresh FINANCIAL FACT SHEETS.**
- ☉ **GLOBAL RENAL/NEPHROLOGY CONFERENCES SCHEDULED FOR 2024.**  
*It is time again to plan your professional development, networking and, of course, travel to near and far destinations.*



The  
**HOME**  
**Network**<sup>™</sup>  
Educate, Enable, Empower  
Established 2009

### Acknowledgements



## Targeted Education Approach to Improve Peritoneal Dialysis Outcomes – Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial (TEACH-PD CRCT)

ClinicalTrials.gov Registry: NCT03816111

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

A pragmatic, multi-centre, multinational, registry-based, cluster-randomised trial (CRCT), randomising PD units to implementing TEACH-PD training modules targeted at PD trainers and incident PD patients versus standard existing practices.

### Global Recruitment Success – 98% Target Achieved!

*Thank you* to all the participating PD Units in Australia and New Zealand for their amazing efforts in achieving a 98% recruitment target at the close of the global enrolment on 31 October 2023.

Now, all efforts are continued for participant follow up visits. *We are really seeing the end of the tunnel!*

The Protocol Paper for the TEACH-PD has been accepted for publication. Feel free to access it via:

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-023-07715-0>

The TEACH-PD training curriculum and material have been developed by a core group of renal nurses from the HOME Network (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.

# AUSTRALIA INITIATIVE — The HOME Network over a 12-Year Journey

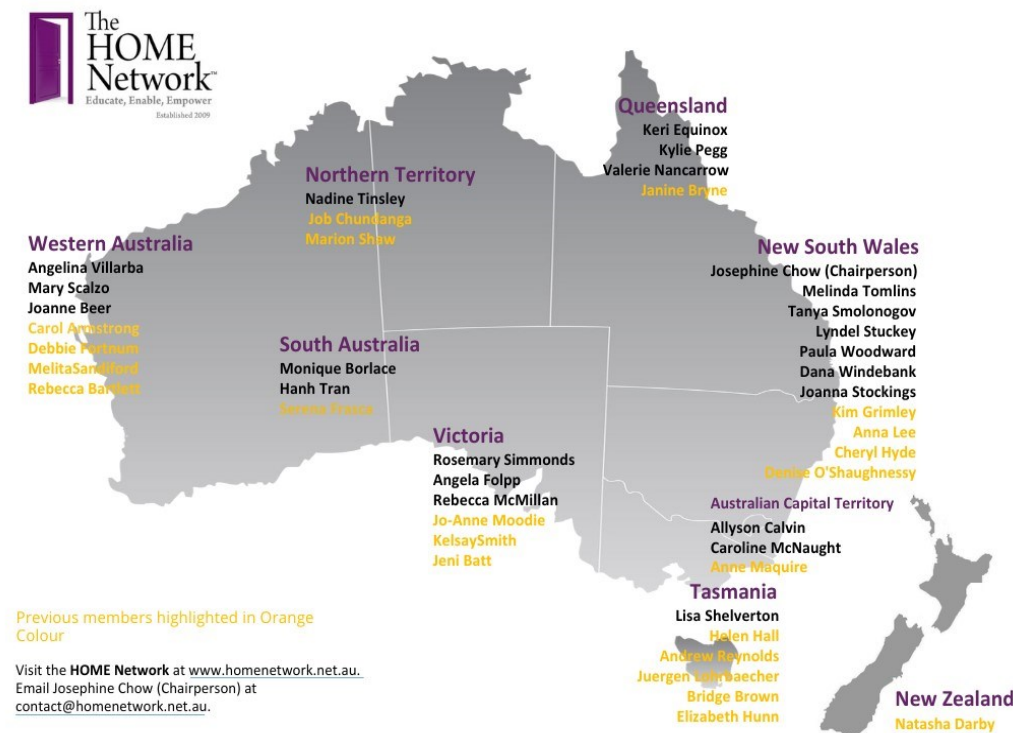
The HOME Network (THN) was established in 2009 as a national initiative aiming to enable healthcare professionals with knowledge and resources to empower more people with Kidney Failure (KF) to embrace the freedom of home dialysis and its associated health benefits.



The  
**HOME**  
**Network**<sup>™</sup>  
Educate, Enable, Empower  
Established 2009

We achieve our mission through research (4 multicentre studies and over 20 publications), education (e.g. ESKD Education Pathway, TEACH-PD), and advocacy (e.g. Financial Fact Sheets outlining entitlement for out-of-pocket expenses). Our members are committed consumers and expert healthcare professionals in nephrology nursing and education, strategic management and allied health fields (*Diagram 1*) and come from all parts of Australia, including metropolitan, regional and rural areas.

**Diagram 1 — Membership for THN**



Overall project plans, with well-defined milestones, were developed through the years by THN members via our annual workshops where we discussed and defined the principles for promoting strategies to increase home dialysis in Australia.

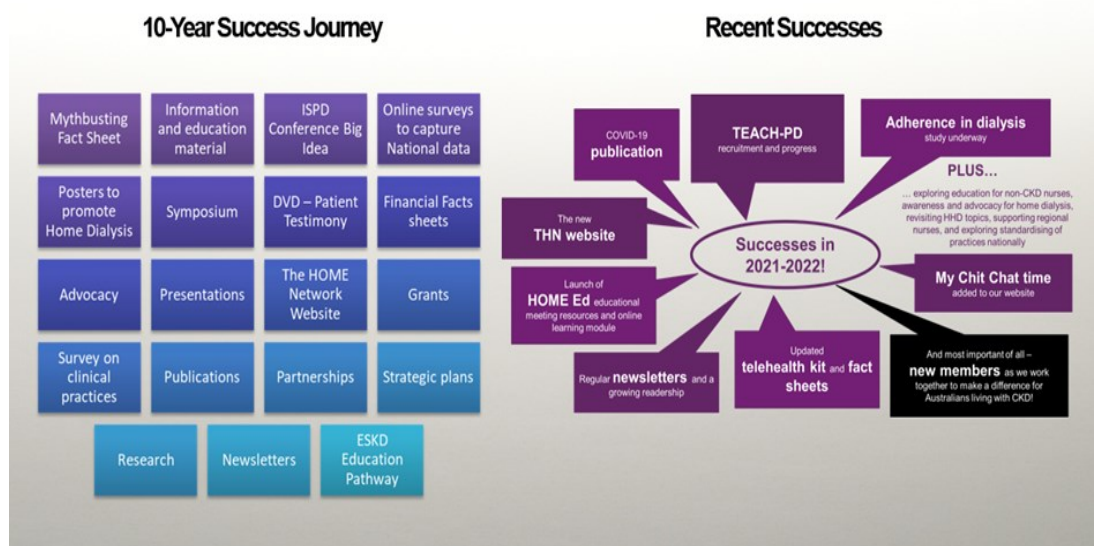
This paper will discuss THN's 12-year journey and achievements in making a difference to our renal communities and our patients to improve their care and experience in kidney health.

**Diagram 2 — Our Achievements**



## Our Achievements

THN has demonstrated an excellent exemplar (*Diagram 2*), that shows the importance of partnership amongst consumers, healthcare professionals and industrial organisations, with a *shared vision* of increased awareness and improved access to home dialysis for patients with KF.



## ***Our strategic partners include:***

- (1) Kidney Health Australia**, who share the vision of increased awareness and improved access to home dialysis in Australia;
- (2) Renal Society of Australasia**, reflecting mutual interests in increasing the utilisation of home dialysis in Australia;
- (3) Australasian Kidney Trials Network**, working together on the Target Education ApproaCH to improve Peritoneal Dialysis outcomes (TEACH-PD) Trial; and,
- (4) My Chit Chat Time Channel**, an online video enterprise demonstrating kidney-friendly meals utilising the resources available through published recipes.



**The model of THN can be easily transferred to other professional bodies nationally and internationally.** THN will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate to support best-practice care and better patient outcomes for Australians with KF.

***Become an associate member today!***



[www.homenetwork.net.au](http://www.homenetwork.net.au)



The HOME Network is proud to acknowledge that our Chairperson, Professor Josephine Chow, CF, was awarded the New South Wales Health 2023 *Staff Member of the Year* in October 2023.

Professor Chow has been crucial to the global impact of the renal program's knowledge generation in nursing leadership and practices. She is a Winston Churchill Fellow and the Chair of a number of local and international professional and influential committees.

Her leadership sets a positive example, promotes positive cultural change and inspires others.

Professor Chow is the founder and foundational Chair of The HOME Network (since 2009), an Australasian initiative that brings healthcare professionals and consumers together to promote home dialysis as a choice.

Working with the strategic partners, she has considerable success in securing funding for significant international projects including TEACH-PD, PEACH, COVID-19 and Long COVID. In recognition of her innovative response and leadership to the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Chow was the Finalist of the 2022 Federal Health Minister's award for Nursing Trailblazers. She has received over 30 awards in research, leadership and innovation, such as the NSW Health Innovation Award. She advocates (and is also a member of) consumer working groups. She has affiliations with universities in Australia and the Stanford University in the United States.

Professor Chow holds several foundational positions within NSW Health including:

- *Director of Strategy/Partnerships*
- *Co-Director for the Liverpool Renal Clinical Trial Centre*
- *Foundational Chair and Professor of the South Western Sydney Nursing & Midwifery Alliance*
- *Deputy Director of Research, and*
- *Lead of the Operational Team of the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency Operation Centre.*

***This recognition as NSW Health 2023 Staff Member of the Year has further provided a strong symbol signifying the role and works of The HOME Network. Congratulations Professor Chow!***



## My Chit Chat Time



Egg noodles (fried) with Mushrooms



# The HOME Network™

Educate, Enable, Empower

Established 2009

The HOME Network is thrilled to announce our ongoing and exciting partnership with **My Chit Chat Time**, which has opened possibilities for sharing nutritious recipes for individuals with kidney disease.

Together, we are working on a brand-new project that will explore even more recipes that promote kidney health. All recipes will be developed in consultation with THN renal dietitians.

Stay tuned for updates in both our newsletter and website, and the My Chit Chat Time YouTube page, where you will find healthy recipes. To get you started, we're excited to share our first collaborative recipe: **[Fried Egg Noodles with Mushrooms](#)**.

## 2023 FINANCIAL FACT SHEETS

Explore our THN Financial Factsheets! These factsheets are designed to help you navigate the financial aid provided by the Australian government and other utilities providers. Whether you need assistance with dialysis, travel or caregiver support, we have all the details provided here.

We have compiled a comprehensive list of concessions offered by Australian states and territories that could benefit you and your carer.

**[Click here](#)** to download these invaluable resources for your state!



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE ON HOME DIALYSIS

#### Western Australia

##### Home Dialysis Payment:

- HHD \$624-\$780/yr.
- \*APD energy rebate \$103/yr.
- \*Energy rebate up to \$326.33/yr.
- \*Water concession may be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 50% of their annual water.
- \*Essential Medical Equipment Payment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

**FEDERAL GOVT. PAYMENT :**  
**Essential Medical Equipment \***  
 \$183/yr., must apply for  
 via Dept. Human Services

\*Concession card holders only  
Figures valid at August 2023

To download your state or territory please visit  
The HOME Network website: <http://www.homenetwork.net.au>

#### Northern Territory

- \*Energy rebate up to \$1200/yr.
- \*Water concession up to \$800/yr.
- Essential medical equipment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

#### Queensland

##### Home Dialysis Payment:

- HHD & PD \$653.34/yr.
- \*Energy rebate up to \$372.20/yr. & natural gas up to \$86.75/yr.
- \*Water concession (HHD 50-400 kilolitres H2O free/yr.)
- \*Essential Medical Equipment Payment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

#### New South Wales

##### Home Dialysis Electricity Payment:

- HHD & PD \$1.54p/day
- \*Low-Income Energy Rebate \$285/yr.
- Water concession HHD 80-400 kilolitres H2O free/yr.
- \*Essential Medical Equipment Payment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

#### South Australia

##### Home Dialysis payment:

- HHD & PD \$165/yr.
- \*Energy rebate up to \$263.15/yr.
- \*Water concession up to \$359.70/yr.
- \*Sewerage concession up to \$119.50/yr.
- \*Cost of living up to \$243.90/yr.
- \*Essential medical equipment payment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

#### Australian Capital Territory

##### Home Dialysis Electricity Payment:

- HHD & PD \$128/yr.
- \*Energy rebate \$750/yr.
- Water rebate HHD up to \$1200/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

#### Tasmania

##### Home Dialysis Electricity Payment:

- HHD & PD \$346.75/yr.
- \*Energy rebate \$627.80/yr.
- \*Water concession \$113.33/yr. (HHD up to 200 kilolitres H2O free/yr.)
- \*Sewerage concession \$113.33/yr.
- \*Essential Medical Equipment Payment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

#### Victoria

##### Home Dialysis Payment: HHD \$2120 PD \$804

- \*Energy rebate 17.5% discount/yr.
- \*Water & sewerage concession \$354.10
- \*Essential Medical Equipment Payment \$183/yr.
- PBS \$262.80 threshold\* and \$1,563.50 for other eligible clients.

**For additional information, please contact Centrelink or your healthcare/support worker.**

## Global Renal/Nephrology Conferences Scheduled for 2024

Time to plan your professional development and networking...  
*Travel safe!*



The  
**HOME**  
Network™  
Educate, Enable, Empower  
Established 2009

### World Congress of Nephrology (WCN) 2024

13-16 April 2024

Buenos Aires Convention Center (CEC), Buenos Aires, Argentina

Website: <https://www.theisn.org/wcn/about/>

### Canadian Society of Nephrology Annual General Meeting

2-4 May 2024

Montreal, Canada

Website: <https://www.csnsn.ca/>

### 61st European Renal Association Congress

23-26 May 2024

Stockholm, Sweden

Website: <https://www.era-online.org/events/stockholm-2024/>

### Renal Society of Australasia 2024 Conference

12-15 June 2023

Brisbane, Australia

Website: <https://www.renalsociety.org/education/2024-annual-conference/>

### 2024 Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN) and 44th Korean Society of Nephrology (KSN) Meeting

13-16 June 2024

Coex, Seoul, Korea

Website: <https://apcn2024.org/program/glance.php>

### The Transplantation Society of Australia & New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting

16-18 June 2024

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Website: <https://tsanz.com.au/>

### 59<sup>th</sup> Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) Annual Scientific Meeting

31 August – 4 September 2024

Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Website: *To be advised*

### International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis 2024 Congress

26-29 September 2024

Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai, UAE

Website: [www.ispd.org/dubai2024](http://www.ispd.org/dubai2024)



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](mailto: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 touch to learn more.

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



*The time has come to bid a fond farewell to our ACT member, **Allyson Calvin**.*

*Allyson joined THN over three years ago with a 25-year background in renal nursing.*

*Her current role is that of CNC Renal Home Therapies, but soon in retirement: The sky's the limit!*

*Allyson, you leave us with our blessings and we wish you all the very best for your future. Thank you so much for your invaluable contributions to THN.*



The  
**HOME**  
**Network**<sup>™</sup>  
Educate, Enable, Empower  
Established 2009

## Join The HOME Network as an associate member!

*We hope that you enjoyed reading this edition of The HOME Network newsletter; it certainly is an exciting time for The HOME Network and home dialysis!*

If you are not already an associate member, now is your chance to join us. New associate membership continues to grow as a result of our newsletter's accessibility. Feedback has been very positive and has greatly influenced as to how the newsletters are produced. *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.*

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 venue where you will learn about the commencement of any new projects, and is also *your* chance to get involved in a project that you feel passionate about.

*To join as an associate member, please use this link to enter your details:*

<https://thomenetwork.weebly.com/contact-us.html>

*Please share this link with any healthcare professional who you think may also be interested to join us.*

The HOME Network's website at [www.homenetwork.net.au](http://www.homenetwork.net.au) is where you will need to go to find out about our past and current projects in this exciting area, not to mention that we have also added some great new resources and publications to this website.

You can also email Josephine Chow (The HOME Network Chairperson) for more information regarding The HOME Network and the group's activities by clicking onto the "CONTACT US" tab.

If you have any news to share relevant to home dialysis, please email the editor at: [news@homenetwork.net.au](mailto:news@homenetwork.net.au)



As the holiday season approaches, I would like to extend heartfelt wishes of joy, peace and happiness to each and every one of you.

Christmas is a time for reflection, gratitude and the warmth of shared moments with loved ones and those near and dear to you. You all make up the best parts of my life, and are the reason I keep on striving for the shared vision. I thank you for your years of support to myself and The HOME Network, and wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Acknowledgements

The HOME Network sincerely thanks the following people for their time and input into the development of this edition of the *Home Dialysis Update* Newsletter: Dana Windebank, Jerome Pong, Josephine Chow, Vanessa Jelic, Rosemary Simmonds and all the member of THN.

We would also like to acknowledge our ongoing partnership with Kidney Health Australia, the Renal Society of Australasia, the Australasian Kidney Trials Network and My Chit Chat Time.