

Public Statement Regarding Dialysis Transport for Aboriginal Community Members in South Australia

Adelaide PHN wishes to make the following facts available to our community following inaccurate reporting by the ABC:

- **No services or transport services (commissioned by Adelaide PHN with Commonwealth funds) have had funding cuts or had funding withdrawn**
- Sonder is the commissioned service provider for the Integrated Team Care (Closing the Gap program) in the Northern, Western and Southern regions of Adelaide
- Not a single Aboriginal person, in need of urgent transport assistance, has ever been refused a short term service by Sonder
- The transportation of acute patients for services such as Dialysis are the responsibility of SA Health and the relevant Dialysis Unit
- SA Health has always had a Patient Transport Policy (which applies to Dialysis services) providing for transportation if patients fit the eligibility criteria – people should approach their SA Health Dialysis Unit Manager for assistance with this
- Integrated Team Care (CTG) provides for Care Coordination and Outreach Worker services for Aboriginal people with chronic complex conditions who have a Shared Care Plan from their general practitioner
- The guidelines for this program specify that services and funding for specific items, such as equipment and transportation can only be utilised if they are not available through another source
- The person featured in the article is not an ITC client and has not requested nor had transportation to the Dialysis unit through Sonder
- It would be reasonable to assume that in the circumstances this person would certainly be eligible for SA Health funded transportation for her Dialysis treatment



Deb Lee
CEO, Adelaide PHN