

15 April 2020

Kia ora

Kidney Health New Zealand Update and Autumn Newsletter

I'm writing on behalf of the board and staff of Kidney Health New Zealand. In these unprecedented times we hope you are well and keeping safe. The board and staff are all well and working from home. Richard Robson recently completed his term as a board member and KHNZ welcomed Christine Prince to the board. There are more details about the staff and board [here](#):

Routine care

A key message for all kidney patients is to continue to undertake treatment whatever it is. Only make changes to your treatment under the guidance of your renal team.

Survey

Kidney Health New Zealand is keen to find out how we can support those with kidney disease during the current alert levels so can you complete the survey question here by 5pm Monday 20 April

Find the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T3J8VBH>

Follow us

You can follow our website at www.kidney.health.nz, on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn, just search for Kidney Health New Zealand. Please pass on our links to other thanks

Support us

Right now we are working harder than ever and we are still needing your support. Please consider donating to support our work here <https://www.kidney.health.nz/Donation/>.

KHNZ has undertaken a number of unique activities recently:

COVID-19

KHNZ has an updated website with regular updates of information on the site regarding COVID-19. If you have any queries regarding COVID-19, please call us on 0800 543 639. Also please sign up for our regular updates here: <https://www.kidney.health.nz/Newsletter/>

Patient support groups

The leads from the regional support groups, kidney societies and KHNZ have been meeting online as a group each week to provide feedback and disseminate important information regarding COVID-19.

Blood pressure monitors for at-risk patients

KHNZ is currently fundraising to pay for blood pressure monitors for patients who need to be isolated and still need to take their blood pressure regularly. These will be distributed throughout the country via renal units. If you know of someone who needs one, please email info@kidney.health.nz.

You can donate here to help fund these vital items: <https://www.kidney.health.nz/Donation/>. The blood pressure monitors will remain the property of KHNZ. They will also be useful beyond the current situation as they mean patients don't have the cost of GP visits or cost of travel to clinics. They also free up clinical staff to focus on more pressing issues.

World Kidney Day

We managed to get World Kidney Day completed just before the lockdown and you can see more about that on our website. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Consumer Council

KHNZ successfully ran the annual consumer council online for the first time. There was excellent feedback and a report of the meeting is now being collated for distribution.

ANZSN – COVID 19 committee

KHNZ has a seat on this committee and are sharing feedback from kidney patients and disseminating important messages from this group to all support groups and through the KHNZ website.

Nga mihi

Michael Campbell
General Manager