

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **ANGELS APPLAUDED ON WORLD KIDNEY DAY**



Verna Newchurch has been honoured as a recipient of Kidney Health Australia's Operation Angel Awards Program, announced today to mark World Kidney Day, 2012.

Ms Anne Wilson, CEO of Kidney Health Australia said: "Operation Angel is a National Awards Program recognising the unsung heroes of the kidney sector – the carers, the patients, doctors and nurses who work tirelessly to support those with kidney disease and to increase awareness of the need to reduce the burden of kidney disease."

One in 9 Australians over the age of 25 or 1.7 million Australians has chronic kidney disease. More than 50 Australians die each day with kidney-related disease. This is why the work carried out by hundreds of people daily in hospitals and kidney clinics across the country is so important.

According the latest figures from the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry, there are currently 10,603 Australians on dialysis who benefit from the care and support our unsung heroes so willingly provide.

Verna is an Enrolled Nurse professional in a remote health service in South Australia at Ceduna District Health Services. She is the first Aboriginal Enrolled Nurse to train in the dialysis course in Ceduna.

Verna left Ceduna last year to study and train in haemodialysis, thus enabling her to return to the community, working within the dialysis team and with Aboriginal dialysis patients. Since Verna's return, she has dedicated her time to her patients, picking up new skills and receiving outstanding results. She has had a significant impact on the patients; they are happier with her there and enjoy having an Aboriginal nurse who understands their culture and needs.



Verna is very passionate about dialysis assisting in improving her patients' health, and quality of life is very important to her. Verna is friendly, skilled and an asset to her dialysis team.

Kidney Health Australia is proud to honour Verna for her outstanding service in spreading awareness of kidney disease.

For more information on kidneys visit: [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au).

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