



## RACING LEGEND SIR JACK BRABHAM JOINS IN THE CALL FOR EARLY DETECTION

Kidney Health Australia Patrons, Sir Jack and Lady Margaret Brabham urge Australians at high risk of chronic kidney disease to 'take the test' as part of a national awareness campaign that focuses on early detection of chronic kidney disease.

This week, Kidney Health Australia is using Red Undies Week as a fun and cheeky campaign designed to attract public attention to a very serious health problem – kidney disease.

- 1 in 3 adult Australians is at increased risk of developing chronic kidney disease
- 1.7 million Australians over 25 (1 in 9) have chronic kidney disease
- 50 Australians die each day with kidney related disease.

Sir Jack says: "Chronic kidney disease is on the increase, which is why early detection is so important. I urge anyone in a high risk category to 'take the test' because 'it's time for some decent exposure and prevention is better than cure.'"

Chief Executive Officer of Kidney Health Australia, Ms Anne Wilson says: "Red Undies Week is all about exposing the facts about chronic kidney disease and promoting early detection. This disease kills more Australians each year than breast cancer, prostate cancer or road deaths and most people don't know if they have the disease. Known as the 'silent killer' because there are 'no warning signs' this disease just keeps flying under the radar".

To 'take the test' and find out if you are 'at risk' go into a participating pharmacy and purchase a kit for just \$2. Show your support by wearing the Red Undies Week tattoo and encourage friends and family to 'take the test'. Red Undies Week runs through to Saturday, 2 June, 2012.

"There is no cure for kidney disease, but early detection can increase the life of your kidneys and keep you feeling your best for as long as possible" Ms Wilson says.



## FAST FACTS

Adult Australians are at increased risk of developing kidney disease if they:

- have high blood pressure (hypertension)
- have diabetes
- have established heart problems (heart failure or past heart attack) and/or have had a stroke
- are obese
- smoke
- have family history of kidney disease
- are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- are over 60 years of age (or are over 35 years if of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin)

To take the kidney health test go to [www.checkmykidneys.com.au](http://www.checkmykidneys.com.au)

For more information on kidney health go to [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au) or call 1800 454 363 (1800 4 KIDNEY).

**-ENDS-**

**For further information on the launch or to arrange an interview please contact:**

**Alison Hickerson**

***Communications Coordinator at Kidney Health Australia***

**T (03) 9674 4313**

**M 0402 759 233**

**E [alison.hickerson@kidney.org.au](mailto:alison.hickerson@kidney.org.au)**