



## 'Epidemic' prompts dialysis funds plea

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**Dialysis units around Australia are having an open day to draw attention to what experts describe as a kidney disease epidemic.**

More than 100 kidney specialists have signed a letter to the Prime Minister, John Howard, and Opposition Leader, Mark Latham, demanding a national strategy to address the growing crisis.

They say up to \$5 billion will be needed to pay for dialysis over the next 10 years, and early detection and prevention programs must be introduced.

Kidney patient Kelly Boundy says the disease often strikes with no warning.

The 31-year-old has urged politicians to make themselves more aware of what sufferers endure.

"Maybe they should pay a visit down here and just hang around and see what goes on, maybe picture themselves in one of these chairs and, yes, see what they come up with then," she said.

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