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WESTERN DESERT NGANAMPA WALYTJA PALYANTJAKU TJUTAKU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION ACHIEVES ITS AIMS AND OPENS RENAL DIALYSIS UNIT IN KINTORE

On Remembrance Day Thursday 11 November 2004, a unique celebration occurred at the remote NT community of Kintore. After many years of planning, community action, including raising 1.1 million dollars at a major art auction 4 years ago, the WDNWPTAC opened its haemodialysis unit in Kintore. This celebration was attended by the NT Minister of Health Peter Toyne who talked of the incredible opposition to the project by government and professional bodies but despite all these obstacles the group consistently worked to its aims and has now achieved them in spite of very little government financial assistance. As stated in the last bulletin this must rate as one of the more significant community development programs in Australia if not internationally, considering the very small numbers of people involved. Kintore has a population of probably 300 and Kiwikurra, a neighbouring Pintubi community of another 200 people.

I worked as RAN in Kintore when the art auction was held in 2000, and at that time I was opposed to the concept in common with most medical professionals. While I appreciated that there would be significant technical and staffing problems my main concerns lay with the need to concentrate on effective preventive and community education strategies in order to address the truly frightening reality of the epidemic of chronic disease that is afflicting Indigenous communities here in Australia.

Pintubi though were dogged in their wish to have elders and people with renal disease be able to remain in country with family. And this vision has driven them to achieve this goal. They looked at models of home dialysis, especially in WA where home dialysis programs have been in existence since the early 1980's. A few months ago a house was purchased in Flynn Drive in Alice Springs, not far from the renal unit and it was converted into a dialysis training centre. Pintubi patients on dialysis in Alice were selected and trained in home dialysis before going back to Kintore to use the facility now built in Kintore.

There is much opportunity for community education in this process as people can then be with their family members, can talk about avoidance strategies for renal disease, about the importance of staying healthy. In addition, the renal nurses who support this process will be in a much better position to offer education about chronic disease which will then be passed on to the younger generation. And the Pintubi vision of remaining on their traditional country is realised.

the art of home dialysis, and now they are about to start the real business, the dream of having a dialysis unit in Kintore. All their own work. Simply amazing.

The renal dialysis unit now operating at Kintore will be officially opened by the NT Minister for Health Peter Toyne on Thursday 11 November 2004.

More information can be seen at: [www.crana.org.au/pdf/WDDA NEWSLETTER 1004.pdf](http://www.crana.org.au/pdf/WDDA%20NEWSLETTER%201004.pdf)

CRANA Conference Fremantle September 2004

A very successful conference was held in Fremantle in late September and much was