

Friday, 17 July 2009 | 11:05 AM

Kidney centre opened for rural patients

7th May 2009, 15:00 WST

The first respite renal dialysis centre in the State's Western Desert will be officially opened in Jigalong today.

The centre, which is about 1070km from Perth, has been established to assist patients who were previously forced to relocate to Perth for treatment.

"For several patients, relocating to unfamiliar surroundings in Perth can cause severe personal and social distress," Community Relations superintendent Leon van Erp said.

"This new dialysis centre in Jigalong should help solve some of those issues."


The facility, which will be officially opened by WA Governor Ken Michael, will operate four times a year, for up to two weeks at a time during a three-year trial period.

The centre is expected to receive its first patient in June.

Aboriginals have the highest rate of kidney disease in Australia and the rates of kidney disease that lead to kidney failure and require dialysis are 20 to 40 times higher among Aboriginals.

The centre is a joint project between the Martu people and Newcrest Mining, with the Martu people asking Newcrest to assist them in establishing a dialysis program near their homes to enable people with renal disease to return home periodically.

PERTH
LISA CALAUTTI

 **Have your say**

 **LOADING**