



Appendix 5

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Couzos S, Delaney-Thiele D, Page P. Primary Health Networks and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. *Med J Aust* 2016; 204: 234-237. doi: 10.5694/mja15.00975.

APPENDIX 5. Reorientating specialist health services towards primary health care

The first Aboriginal community-controlled satellite dialysis unit in Australia resulted from a partnership between a remote Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and a state government funded urban hospital in response to the epidemic of end-stage kidney disease in 2002.¹ After a decade of service, health outcomes of patients accessing the service from remote Aboriginal communities were similar to those reported for non-Indigenous patients across Australia. Health outcomes from haemodialysis for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the remote Kimberley region were “as good as elsewhere in the country”. Patients adherence to care was comparable to that in non-Indigenous dialysis services.² Situating the unit within an ACCHS was a success factor- it enabled culturally appropriate services, Aboriginal staff employment, ownership by the Aboriginal community, and integration with primary health care.

Source:

1. Couzos S, Thomas M, Cass A. Chronic Kidney Disease. In: Couzos S, Murray RB. *Aboriginal primary health care: an evidence-based approach*, Oxford University Press, 2008. p 605.
2. Marley JV, Dent HK, Wearne M et al. Haemodialysis outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients of remote Kimberley region origin. *Med J Aust* 2010; 193:516-20.