

# Kidney Health New Zealand and Diabetes New Zealand Working Together: Co-operation Brings Strength



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Over 200,000 New Zealanders have diabetes  
Diabetic nephropathy, a major complication of diabetes, is the leading cause of kidney failure in New Zealand and is particularly common in Maori and Pacific people.

## Diabetes New Zealand diabetes new zealand

Diabetes New Zealand, established in 1962, is the national NGO supporting 14,000 members, 39 diabetes societies and health professionals involved with diabetes.

Diabetes New Zealand is a charitable society, and is a nationwide, non-governmental, non-profit organisation.

Diabetes New Zealand acts for people affected by diabetes by:

- Encouraging local support for people affected by diabetes
- Acting as an advocate for people affected by diabetes
- Raising awareness of diabetes, especially concerning interventions that will prevent or reduce its incidence
- Educating and informing people about diabetes, its treatment, management and control
- Supporting research into the treatment, prevention and cure of diabetes

## Kidney Health New Zealand kidney Health NEW ZEALAND

Kidney Health New Zealand, established in 1979 as a non-profit organisation, is the national body representing people with kidney disease.

KHNZ's Medical Director is an ex officio member of the National Renal Advisory Group that advises the Ministry of Health and District Health Boards.

Kidney Health New Zealand's aims are:

- To fund research into the prevention, early detection and cure of kidney disease
- Provide education and support in the recognition of the symptoms of kidney disease
- Provide resource information concerning the treatment and management of patients with kidney disease
- To promote the donation of kidneys and other organs and tissue for transplantation
- Liaise with and support Patient Support Groups



Urine Testing in the Work Place

## Kidney Health New Zealand and Diabetes New Zealand

Both organisations provide consumer support and advocacy, raise awareness concerning early detection and intervention, support research and provide education.

Both organisations are dependent on public contributions.

Both NGOs have struggled for public and government recognition in contrast to the larger NGOs such as the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Society. Recognition that both organisations have much in common and would have more impact working together has led to an agreement to work together in the area of diabetes and kidney disease.



Blood Sugar Check at Pasifika

## What have we done together?

- Provided CKD and diabetes screening in at-risk communities, including at Pasifika, the largest annual gathering in Polynesia.
- KHNZ's Education Manager provides professional development for diabetes nurses
- At Diabetes NZ's invitation, the Medical Director of KHNZ has spoken to the all-party *Parliamentarians for Diabetes* group
- Both organisations share website links
- Gave a joint presentation to the National Health Committee  
The National Health Committee provides the New Zealand Minister of Health with independent advice
- Supported each others advocacy regarding diabetes and CKD e.g. need for annual CKD screening for people with diabetes
- Members of diabetes societies have made presentations to workshops for kidney patient support groups
- Kidney Health NZ display at New Zealand Society for Study of Diabetes meeting



Blood Pressure Check at Pasifika 2010



CKD Screening at Parliament

## What does it mean for our organisations?

- "The result is greater than the sum of the two parts"
- Opportunities to learn from each other
- Enhanced advocacy for patients
- More opportunities for accessing communities at risk of CKD
- More political clout

