

The NMHRC Chronic Kidney Disease Centre of Research Excellence (2015-19)



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Aim

To describe the newly established NHMRC Chronic Kidney Disease Centre of Research Excellence (CKD.CRE).

Background

Globally, CKD is a significant health problem, and, with current trends, the costs of renal replacement therapy might soon be unsupportable in Australia. Nearly all the opportunity to ameliorate end stage kidney failure lies with better understanding and management of CKD.

Methods

The CKD.CRE, Australia's only CRE in CKD, is dedicated to improving CKD knowledge and management across the health care spectrum.

Figure 1 summarises the CKD.CRE governance framework.

The Centre, based at the University of Queensland, embraces investigators and collaborators in almost every state/territory.

Figure 2 summarises the CKD.CRE research and practice platforms.

Research themes include the establishment of a national CKD surveillance network, accessing already collected data in multiple existing programs, which embrace renal and primary care, and public and private services. In addition, themes include CKD practice improvement in primary care, nursing care and care of the frail and complex. They include a biomarker research program based on patients in the CRE's collective CKD registries, with establishment of Australia's only CKD.Biobank. The final theme consists of systematic health economic evaluations woven throughout. Indigenous perspectives are embedded in all research streams.

Figure 3 outlines the current and potential partners in the national CKD surveillance network.

Progress to date

The CRE incorporates 5 post-doctoral positions (4 named already), and 6 PhD students across the research streams. Eminent Australian nephrologists, the Head of Health at AIHW, and representatives of peak consumer bodies occupy key governance positions. Work has commenced in all research streams, along with presentations, proposed publications and building of collaborations.

Via CKD.QLD, the Centre is affiliated with the Global Network of CKD Cohorts (GNCKDC), through the International Society of Nephrology. Processes are underway for further leveraging of funds.

Conclusion

The CKD.CRE should become a major player on the global platform of CKD knowledge and practice improvement.

Figure 1. CKD Centre of Research Excellence 2015-19 Governance framework



Figure 2. CKD.CRE research and practice platforms: building from established collaboratives

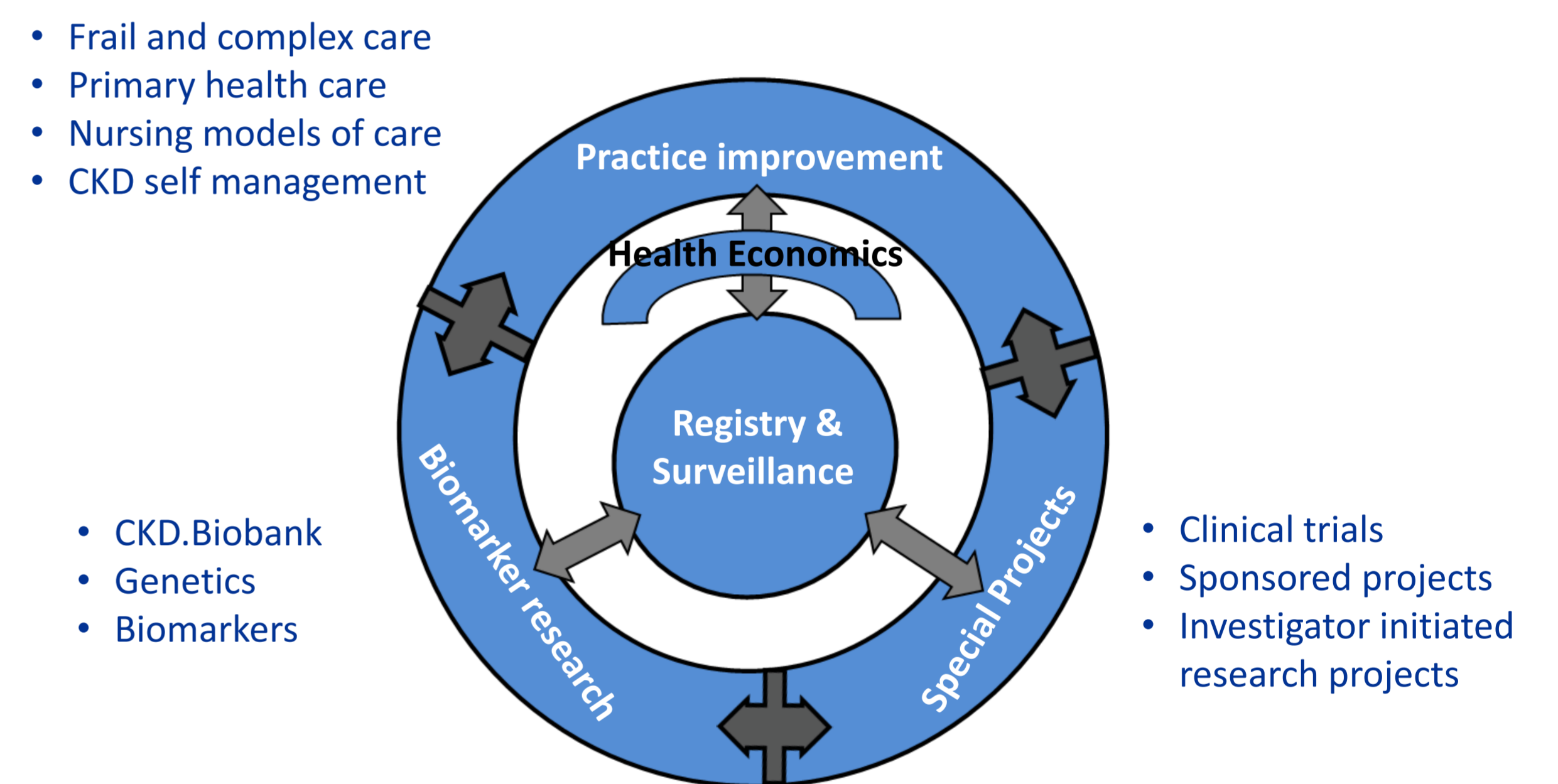
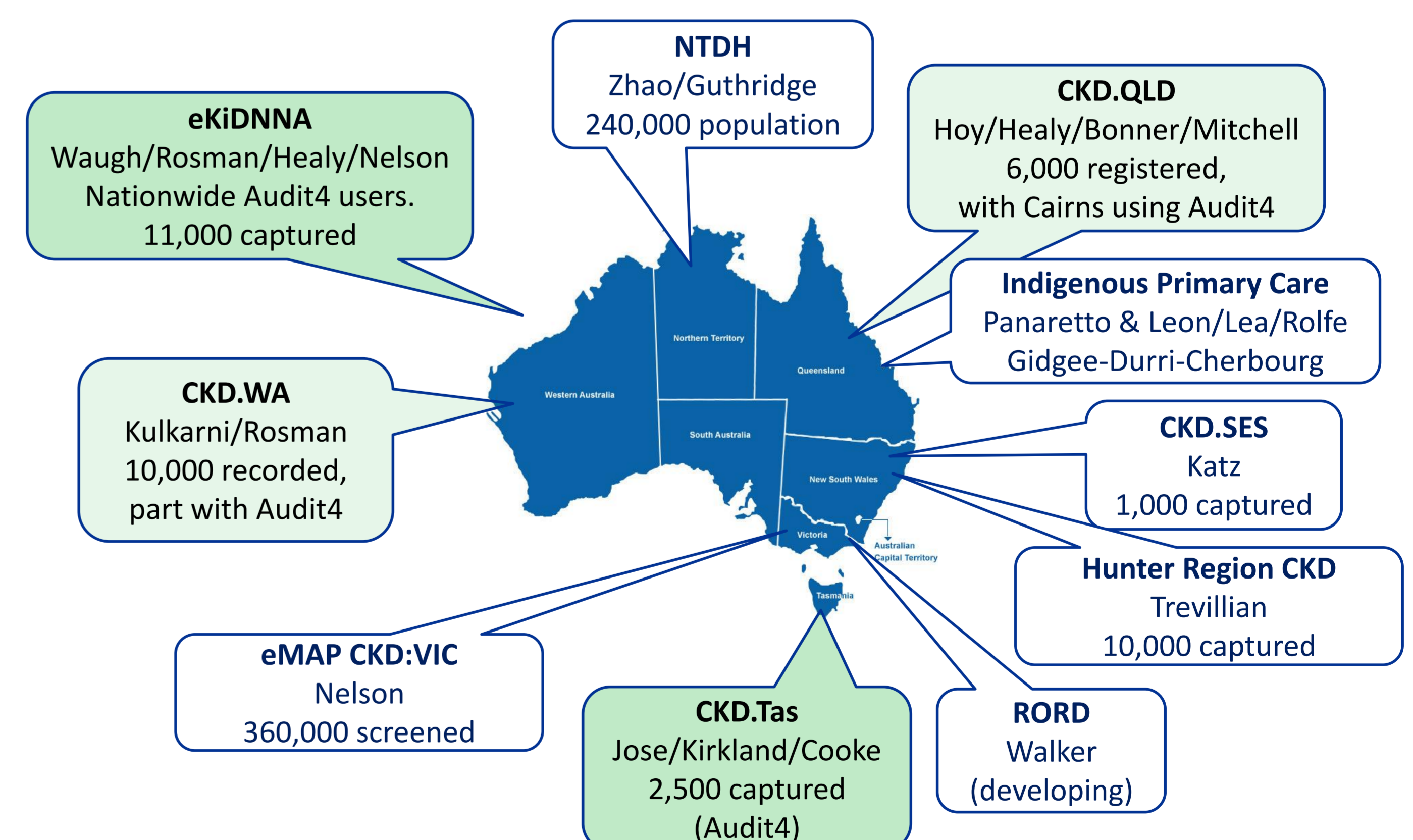


Figure 3. Current and potential partners for the national CKD surveillance network. All are welcome



Any queries, please contact the NHMRC Chronic Kidney Disease Centre for Research Excellence: CKD.CRE Manager: Anne Cameron @ a.salisbury1@uq.edu.au or phone (07) 3346 4995