



Media release

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31-10-06

MEDIA RELEASE

Award for renal nurse

HOME Dialysis Unit nurse Angelina Villarba is happy to go the extra mile for her work.

In fact she's not shy of putting in a few thousand extra miles, helping dialysis patients in the state's North West return home to look after their own treatment.

Ms Villarba has 10 patients, including indigenous people, from remote locations in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

These patients belong to the Royal Perth Hospital's Remote Area Dialysis Programme (RADP).

The Mirrabooka woman has 15 patients in the metro area and 10 patients, including indigenous people, from remote locations in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

Her role is to help these far-flung dialysis patients, and their carers, to manage their illness at home.

"This is a great achievement for patients," she said.

"They spend two to three months learning to control their own dialysis treatment, putting needles into themselves and learning to problem-solve with the machine.

"They have to have quite advanced clinical knowledge because they have to manage their own treatment."

Ms Villarba spends about three days with each patient in their home or community, ensuring they, their carer and machine are all working effectively and efficiently.

By way of follow up, she visits her home dialysis patients about once a year to check on their progress.

“My satisfaction comes from being able to send patients back home – this makes a real difference to their lives,” she said.

“They are lonely here and away from their families but we help them return to the hunting and fishing that they have been brought up to do.

“Even for Perth patients – it gives them autonomy, they can work and become a constructive, productive part of their community.”

Ms Villarba was also recently named the Kidney Health Australia Renal Nurse of the Year. The award recognised her work in helping dialysis patients return home.