**Title:** Intensive Diabetes Education Targeting Escalation of Chronic Kidney Disease (IDETECKD): Transforming Diabetes-Kidney Care

**Background:**

T2DM is the most common cause of CKD and healthcare costs associated with stage 3-5 CKD are 57% higher than diabetes alone. T2DM rates within Logan Hospital catchment areas exceed national averages necessitating innovative models of care for management of CKD and T2DM and optimization of specialist outpatient waitlists.

**Aim:**

To assess the healthcare needs and preferences of individuals with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) to collaboratively design, implement, and evaluate an innovative multidisciplinary care pathway involving Dietitian Diabetes Educators (DDEs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs).

**Methods:**

A structured three phased approach to needs assessment, co-design and evaluation of consumer-focused service models was applied. Eligible adults living with T2DM and CKD, or carers, were recruited from Logan Hospital endocrinology and nephrology outpatient services between March 2024 to May 2025, engaging in focus groups, interviews or surveys. Results were transcribed and analyzed according to the Framework Method for thematic analysis.

**Results:**

Consumer insights during the needs assessment and codesign phases (n=20) highlighted the importance of regular communication along the care continuum and providing information in a manner which is easy to understand; "Speak laymen terms people". Trusted relationships with healthcare professionals were heavily emphasised, highlighting the need for clinicians to understand individuals as people and empower them in their care. Evaluation of consumer experience following implementation of the IDETECKD service (n=12) showcased the high acceptability and satisfaction with the DDE and NP led service model “this is brilliant”.

**Conclusion:**

Co-designing specialist health services with consumers provides valuable insights to guide responsive service delivery. Prioritizing productive consumer and service relationships may enhance service engagement by responding to consumer needs. These consumer experiences, coupled with an ongoing evaluation of health outcomes will provide evidence to support future workforce innovations which may provide cost-effective care options.