

EASING BURDEN OF KIDNEY PATIENTS

THERE are over 24,000 patients in the country suffering from kidney diseases, with an annual increase of 4,000 more. Nearly five to eight per cent of kidney patients are able to work but cannot secure a job due to the daily need for dialysis treatment.

Kidney patients often suffer from poor attentiveness, memory lapses and lethargy which limit their ability to work. Diagnosing and treating this disease is also costly.

Patients have to fork out at least RM30,000 to RM40,000 per annum on dialysis and medications.

The National Kidney Foundation's Patient Incentive Fund was set up in 2003 to help patients with a loan to start a small business venture or a study loan, interest-free. Through this fund, kidney patients can secure an occupation which allows them to be gainfully employed and govern their lives with dignity.

For early detection and prevention of kidney disease, get a health screening. Details on NKF's services at www.nkf.org.my or call 03-7954 9048.