

Adelaide
Advertiser
SATURDAY
4/4/1959
PAGE 1

Flight To Save Life

A badly burned SA man will be flown to Sydney this morning in an attempt to save his life.

Adelaide doctors believe he must be given immediate treatment using an artificial kidney machine.

The man is Robert Harrison, 45, of Esplanade, Largs Bay, who was badly burned when his cruiser Mab caught fire at Outer Harbor on Saturday.

Mr. Harrison, with clothes ablaze, made desperate efforts to save his daughter and two other children during the fire.

He has been critically ill in the Royal Adelaide Hospital since the accident.

Another member of the boating party, Ernest Stuckey, 43, of Fergusson square, Toorak Gardens, died on Sunday from his injuries.

AFFECTED

Mr. Harrison's kidneys have been affected by the absorption of toxins into his bloodstream.

The artificial kidney machine in Sydney is one of three in Australia. The others are in Melbourne and Brisbane.

The machine, which is a series of filters connected to a pump, draws blood from an artery, purifies it, and pumps it back into the patient through a vein.

Only four or five hours' treatment is needed a week to keep the blood sufficiently pure for the patient to live.

The patient's kidneys will regain their normal function after about three weeks if the treatment is successful.

CHARTER

Mr. Harrison's relatives chartered a TAA Comvair airliner when Adelaide doctors decided he must have the use of an artificial kidney.

A doctor and nursing sister from the Royal Adelaide Hospital will accompany Mr. Harrison.

The chairman of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital honorary staff society said last night that an artificial kidney had been ordered for the new hospital.

"It is vitally needed in Adelaide," he said.

"We believe that about 20 lives could be saved in SA each year if this machine were available."