Rheumatic fever (RF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) still exist in South Australia

Rheumatic Heart Disease is PREVENTABLE

STOP RHD

25%\(^{(1)}\) of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over were living in overcrowded housing - a big driver for RF

5–24 YEARS the age when RF is most common

Group A strep, the bacteria responsible for rheumatic fever, causes around 37% \(^{(2)}\) of sore throats

APPROXIMATELY 300 PEOPLE ARE ON THE SA RHD REGISTER

91% identify as Aboriginal, living in urban, rural and remote settings

59% are under the age of 35

67% are female. Pregnancy can be dangerous for women with RHD

75% of people have joint pain or swelling as one of the signs of RHEUMATIC FEVER

Health professionals play an important role in the prevention, diagnosis and management of RF and RHD. But in 2017 only 25% of health professionals surveyed had a good knowledge of these conditions.

Further information

- RF and RHD are notifiable conditions in South Australia
- SA RHD register info and resources www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/rhd
- For more information or resources about RF or RHD, go to: www.rhdaustralia.org.au

\(^{(1)}\) ABS 4704.0 - The Health and Welfare of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Oct 2010

\(^{(2)}\) Australian Guidelines for prevention, diagnosis and management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease (2nd edition)