RHD Australia Queensland

Queensland Government

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STATE-WIDE
REGISTER & CONTROL PROGRAM FOR
ACUTE RHEUMATIC FEVER(ARF) &
RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE(RHD)

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 6— DECEMBER 2010

♥ our team expands ♥ succesful national RHD workshop ♥
♥ cardiac clinical network/ATSI working group ♥ resources ♥

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Our team expands

RHD Australia/QLD is very pleased Valmay Fisher (of the KuKu Yalanji clan) has joined our team as an Indigenous Liaison Officer. Valmay is assisting all districts - and in particular Cairns/Tablelands and Cape York/ Northern Peninsula - with indigenous communication and education issues.

National RHD workshop

In August most team members travelled to Darwin for the inaugural national RHD workshop.
The theme 'a shared challenge without borders' was actively incorporated into discussions to help foster a national approach. The speaker list included a number of prominent international guests from India, New Zealand and Fiji, as well as members from RHD programs in WA, NT and QLD.

Key recommendations include
• Establishing national data collection
• Improving coordination of care
• Strengthening primary health care services and engaging communities
• Standardising and implementing best practice
• Developing a regional / global collaborative approach to research

The Workshop was followed by a **Research Planning Day.** Here researchers presented their studies and discussed current research being undertaken across the disease spectrum, from pathogenesis of ARF through to a potential study into complications of severe RHD in pregnancy.

Cardiac Clinical Network and ATSI working group

State-wide Cardiac Clinical Network (SCCN) has established an Aboriginal & Torres Islander Working Group to examine cardiac services to ATSI clients & patients across the state. One of the sub-groups established is specifically on ARF/RHD. On Thursday 9th December 2010 the ATSI working group met in Brisbane. Two Indigenous elders shared some positive & negative personal experiences in accessing QH services. These personal accounts were highly informative and was followed by several brief presentations, including a presentation on the Qld RHD project. The program included five concurrent workshops & a number of issues were identified & action plans will be developed in the new year. The intention is to make cardiac services more accessible & user-friendly to ATSI clients & patients and to assist in closing the gap.

Educational resources

Please contact us for educational resources such as the Strong Heart Strong Body booklet, the Injection Reminder Card and the Rheumatic Fever/ Rheumatic Heart DVD

All new and recurrent episodes of ARF—confirmed or suspected—must be notified to your nearest Public Health Unit

Public Health Units ph numbers

Tropical
4226 5500 Cairns
4744 4846 Mt Isa &Gulf
4753 9000 Townsville
4968 6611 Mackay

Central
3624 1111 Brisbane Northside
3142 1800 Moreton Bay
4920 6980 Central Qld
4652 6000 Central West
5409 6600 Sunshine Coast
4120 6000 Harvey Bay
4150 2728 Wide Bay

Southern
3000 9148 Brisbane Southside
4631 9888 Darling Downs
5509 7222 Gold Coast
3528 1681 Southport Central
4656 8100 South West

Thank you for your feedback & suggestions

THINK ARF