



## **MEDIA ALERT:**

### **THINK ARF, STOP RHD**

**Thursday, 15 August 2013**

An upcoming seminar to be held in Alice Springs will examine the key issues on acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease prevention and management.

In Australia, the vast majority of people with acute rheumatic fever (ARF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD) are Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, many of whom live in remote areas of central and northern Australia. Sadly, even though RHD is preventable, Australia has the highest recorded rates of the disease in the world.

Paediatric cardiologist and Medical Director of Paediatric Medicine at Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, **Dr Gavin Wheaton** will headline a prominent line up of speakers which include:

- **Claire Boardman**, RHD Australia Deputy Director
- **Mark Russell**, Public Health Nurse, NT Rheumatic Heart Disease Control Program
- **Wendy Corkhill**, Cardiac Nurse Coordinator Central Australian Hospital Network
- **Kylie Tune**, NT Coordinator, RHD in Pregnancy (AMOSS)

**When: Thursday, 22 August 2013 from 6:30 – 8:30pm**

**Where: Charles Darwin University, Alice Springs**

#### **Media Opportunity:**

Media are welcome to attend the Seminar

For more information visit <http://www.rhdaustralia.org.au/eveningwithRHD>

#### **Media contact:**

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#### **Background:**

RHDAustralia is Australia's national rheumatic heart disease coordination unit and aims to reduce death and disability from acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing RHDAustralia is an initiative of Menzies School of Health Research. The unit was established in 2009 as part of the National Rheumatic Fever Strategy.