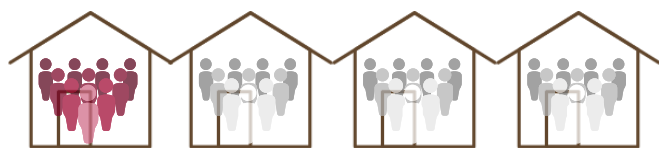


Rheumatic fever (RF) and rheumatic heart disease (RHD)

still exist in **South Australia**

Rheumatic Heart Disease is
PREVENTABLE



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
3000 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)