



Bupa National Medical Director, Dr Rob Grenfell, said, “Take Heart shines a light on a disease that simply should not exist in this country. Through the outreach program, we want to enable communities to identify symptoms early and seek treatment. By addressing the factors contributing to the prevalence of Rheumatic Heart Disease, we can take a significant step towards closing the gap.”

The film includes interviews with experts in the field Dr Bo Remenyi (Paediatric Cardiologist), Dr Yves D’Udekem, (Paediatric Heart Surgeon) Dr Lance O’Sullivan (GP), Dr David Jansen (GP), Associate Professor Dr Andrew Steer (Paediatrician), Associate Professor Nigel Wilson Paediatric (Cardiologist) and Professor Bart Currie (Tropical and Emerging Infectious Diseases Expert).

**Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)** starts with a sore throat or infected skin sores, symptoms of a common bacterial infection (Group A Streptococcus) common in children 5-15 years of age. If left untreated, this can develop into Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and the permanent heart damage known as RHD, which can lead to open-heart surgery, permanent disability, stroke and premature death. Key risk factors include poverty, overcrowding and reduced access to medical care.

The global profile of RHD has increased over the past decade but still remains in the shadow of other communicable diseases such as malaria, HIV and TB, despite being the most common acquired form of cardiovascular disease in children, adolescents and young adults in the world. Indigenous children and young adults are up to eight times more likely than other groups to be hospitalised and nearly 20 times as likely to die from RHD. <sup>iii</sup> currently affecting over thirty million people globally and 2% of Indigenous Australasians living in the Top End.

*Take Heart* director, producer and DOP **Mike Hill** is an award-winning Australian filmmaker passionate about crafting incredible screen stories that inspire change. Hill’s past credits include *Little Stars* (2015), *LIFE Before Death* (2012), *The Man Who Souled The World* (2007), and the television series *Jokes On You* (2011) and *Jailbait* (2008).

*Take Heart* producer **Sue Collins** is an experienced documentary film producer, drama film production manager and skilled researcher committed to creating work that directly benefits others. Her films have been honoured with a multitude of awards, including her role as First Assistant Director to Academy-Award winning filmmaker Adam Elliot on *Mary & Max* (2009), and her work has reached millions around the world, shaped government policy and led to the development of several important social initiatives.

*Take Heart* Narrator **Stan Grant** is a Wiradjuri man, a Logie and Walkley Award winner and Guardian Australia’s Indigenous News Editor. He is the presenter of NITV’s *Awaken* and Sky news, and previously appeared on *Real Life*, *SBS World News Australia* and *CNN*.

For more information visit [www.takeheart.tv](http://www.takeheart.tv).



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