



The Snow Foundation and END RHD Breakfast at Parliament House Tuesday, 23 October at 7.30am

OUR ASK:

We are asking for a non-partisan commitment to eliminate rheumatic heart disease in Australia, an urgent budget allocation in the 2019 Commonwealth Budget, and contributions from jurisdictions with a high burden of disease to start a 20-year trajectory to end RHD in Australia.

With your support, we can end RHD

The momentum to end rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is growing. In May, Australia joined all other participating countries in voting in favour of a World Health Assembly resolution towards prevention, control and eradication of RHD, a preventable disease that is killing Australian children. That followed the Australian Medical Association's 2016 Report Card on Indigenous Health which called for short, medium and longer term action to prevent RHD and sparked the formation of END RHD: an alliance of health, research and community organisations committed to ending the disease in Australia.



It started with a sore throat

Maningrida, taking action

Maningrida is an excellent example of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and community-led solutions are successfully tackling some of the highest rates of RHD in the world.

- Traditional owners, doctors, the school, the health clinic, and Malabam Health Services are working together to educate children and families about RHD, using educational materials in traditional language and through local metaphors.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, specialists and nurses, screened 450 of Maningrida's children and discovered 13 new cases of RHD of which two children – aged 8 and 12 – needed emergency heart surgery.

'It's been the greatest community collaboration I've ever experienced', remarked a traditional owner.

Speakers

We will hear from representatives from Maningrida, who are championing the power of community-led action to end rheumatic heart disease:

- The Brown family whose children have RHD and need ongoing, painful treatment
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Leaders and health workers

We will also hear from national leaders, RHD experts and philanthropy:

- Ms Pat Turner, AM, Co-Chair END RHD, CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- Professor Jonathan Carapetis, AM, Co-Chair END RHD, Director of Telethon Kids Institute
- Dr Bo Reményi, paediatric cardiologist and NT Australian of the Year
- Dr Josh Francis, infectious disease specialist
- Ms Georgina Byron, CEO The Snow Foundation
- Ms Vicki Wade, Senior Cultural Advisor, RHD Australia

Today's event

7.40am	Welcome to Country – Ngunnawal elder Auntie Tina Brown
7.45am	Welcome from Pat Turner, CEO, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
7.55am	Dr Bo Remenyi introduces a Take Heart documentary on living with RHD
8.00am	The Brown family from Maningrida with Dr Bo Remenyi
8.15am	Maningrida community members taking action
8.30am	Professor Jonathan Carapetis gives a summary of RHD challenge, political ask
8.40am	Take Heart documentary on Maningrida community
8.45am	Politicians make brief statements
8.50am	Opportunity for questions from audience and media
9.00am	Politicians depart, close, discussion and networking

Five Priorities to END RHD in Australia

These priorities are a starting point for the actions needed to eliminate rheumatic heart disease (RHD) in Australia.



Guarantee Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership

The Commonwealth Government ensures the leadership and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people drive the development and implementation of RHD prevention strategies, by convening an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Steering Committee.



Set targets to end rheumatic heart disease

Australian Governments together commit to measurable targets for preventing new cases of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. Our vision is that no child born in Australia from this day forward dies of rheumatic heart disease.



Fund a roadmap to end rheumatic heart disease

Australian Governments work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health bodies, experts, and key stakeholders to develop, fully fund, and implement a strategy to end rheumatic heart disease in Australia by 2031.



Commit to immediate action in communities at high risk of rheumatic heart disease

Australian Governments commit to immediate action to fund comprehensive primary care and health promotion activities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with high rates of acute rheumatic fever, and at risk of RHD.

These initiatives must be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and provide dedicated funding to the primary health care services in high-risk communities for both treatment and prevention.

This will also need to include: support for collaboration by peak bodies along with increasing the number of health and community workers; service navigation and health literacy support for high-risk families; and, where appropriate, providing resources for active case finding. Initiatives must be part of a systematic approach addressing the social and environmental determinants of health: tackling inequality, overcrowding, inadequate housing infrastructure, and insufficient hygiene infrastructure, and improving access to appropriate health services.



Invest in strategic research & technology to prevent and treat acute rheumatic fever & rheumatic heart disease

The Commonwealth Government invests in the development of a Strep A vaccine to prevent new cases of acute rheumatic fever and RHD, as well as a long-acting penicillin product to improve the lives of those already living with the disease.

Together, we believe we can end rheumatic heart disease



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