

# Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) State-Wide Register, Queensland

This is the first of our regular emails to keep you up to date.  
They will be 'short & sharp' as we know you are pressed for time.

Issue 1 – October 2009  
**Introducing the team**

## **A newly established team will refine the Queensland register for all suspected and confirmed cases of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and RHD.**

In Queensland Acute Rheumatic Fever is a communicable and notifiable disease. All new and recurrent episodes of ARF must be notified to Tropical Population Health and NOCS (NOTifiable Conditions System).

List of contacts  
(to be expanded as the team develops)

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Notification of RHD is not compulsory, however improving on RHD case registration will assist with a variety of diagnostic, educational and therapeutical issues.

In a nutshell, the RHD register will be of benefit to:

- Improve the surveillance and monitoring of ARF/RHD across Queensland
- The availability of accurate data which will assist in the monitoring of patient outcomes
- Reduce the physical, emotional and financial burden of this ultimately preventable disease

Please contact us with any:

- queries
- suggestions
- email details of anyone interested in this project

Our main focus initially will be to enhance the current system of ARF /RHD registration and data capturing. Currently available clinical ARF/RHD data will also be checked and processed.

A total of 5 Clinical Nurse Consultants will cover the various Health Service Districts of Queensland. Their role is focused on education & support for clients as well as clinicians.

The newly formed National Coordination Unit for Rheumatic Heart Disease will be of assistance to all states involved with RHD registers. One of their tasks is to evaluate education material and to assist each state with revisions and updates.

The team will be happy to receive any feedback, suggestions, tips or queries.

Regards,

*The ARF/RHD team*