

JUMBUNNA SESSIONS

Supporting Aboriginal Maternal,
Child and Family Health

“Healing Hearts” – The life journey of Aboriginal girls and women living with Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease

When:

Tuesday 11 February 2025
12:30pm – 2:00pm (AEDT)

Where:

Online webinar

To Register:

Click or scan QR code to register



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Overview

The Training Support Unit Jumbunna Sessions are a series of dedicated professional development webinars with an Aboriginal cultural lens. These webinars are for multidisciplinary staff working in the Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service (AMIHS), Building Strong Foundations (BSF) teams and interested healthcare colleagues who provide services in partnership with Aboriginal families in NSW.

Presentation Details

This webinar “Healing Hearts” brings together knowledge custodians in Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) to provide an understanding of this preventable disease. We will be joined by researchers, a cardiologist, the NSW RHD Coordinator and the Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit to provide depth of understanding and demonstrate a preventable approach. This will target primary prevention and address the cultural and social determinants of health, which is the key to eradicating this disease in our Aboriginal communities.

RHD is twice as common in women than men, often starting in childhood or adolescence. The first clinical

signs are most common among children aged between 5 to 14 years in our communities. Untreated Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) can progress and lead to heart valve damage, which is associated with significant cardiac and perinatal morbidity. Preconception planning, counselling and RHD screening are pivotal to best practice outcomes for our women embracing pregnancy.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Define ARF and RHD
2. Discuss the importance of screening and management of RHD during pregnancy
3. Explain the requirement of notifications of RHD to the Public Health Unit
4. Identify the impact of the cultural and social determinants of health that are specific to ARF and RHD.

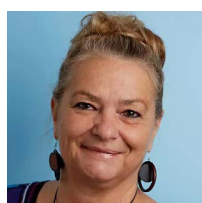
Registrations are open to all colleagues interested in Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

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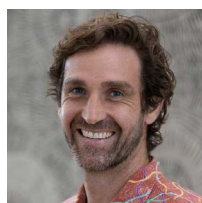
Speakers

The TSU is delighted to share the expertise from the following guest speakers.



Vicki Wade - Principal Research Fellow First Nations Heart Health, Menzies School of Health Research

Aunty Vicki is a proud Noongar woman who has been working in health for over 40 years. Her career started as a clinical nurse in cardiology. Aunty Vicki has held many senior positions including Area Manager of Aboriginal Health, First Nations Heart Health Lead with the National Heart Foundation, Director of Rheumatic Heart Disease Australia and in her current role as Associate Professor in First Nations Heart Health at Menzies School of Health Research. Aunty Vicki has worked tirelessly to improve the cardiac health of First Nations people throughout her career. Aunty Vicki is the recipient of two prestigious awards for her outstanding contributions: the Sidney Sax Medal and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) award for Indigenous Excellence in cardiac care.



Dr James Marangou - Adult Cardiologist and Clinical Researcher, Menzies School of Health Research

Dr James Marangou is an adult cardiologist at Royal Perth Hospital and leads the Kimberley cardiology service. He is a clinician-researcher with Menzies School of Health Research where he co-leads the rheumatic heart disease research program. His PhD thesis focusses on echocardiography screening for RHD as part of antenatal care.



Geraldine Vaughan - Public Health Lecturer and Researcher, Central Queensland University

Geraldine Vaughan is a public health researcher with a strong interest in women's health, health systems and infectious diseases, with a particular focus on equity. Her background in clinical nursing has a strong focus on

women's health. Geraldine brings public health expertise in epidemiology, qualitative research and data systems. Geraldine's research has resulted in many publications on RHD, and how the disease effects women and girls across the life journey.



Melanie Middleton - Rheumatic Heart Disease Coordinator, Health Protection NSW

Melanie is the RHD Coordinator for NSW, working for Health Protection NSW. Melanie holds a Master of Public Health qualification and has worked in public health for over 25 years. Melanie has experience in surveillance and research of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections at the Kirby Institute. Since 2013, Melanie has worked for Health Protection in NSW where she established the NSW Rheumatic Heart Disease Program in 2015. Melanie has a key role in managing the NSW RHD Register, including data management and reporting.



Kerryn Lawrence - Assistant Manager- Aboriginal Environment Health Unit, NSW Ministry of Health

Kerryn is an enthusiastic Environmental Health Officer who currently holds the role of Assistant Manager, Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit, NSW Health. During her career, Kerryn has held various positions in both local and state governments in Victoria and NSW. Kerryn is passionate about improving processes in social housing management and the enhancement of the Environmental Health profession.