

## Spotlight on Rheumatic Heart Disease

The Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund's Spotlight program sets out to bring WA's health and medical research and innovation sector together to tackle one bold, uniquely Western Australian challenge each year, to drive lasting solutions with multi-year investment, cross-sector collaboration, and strong community engagement.

The first Spotlight program will shine a light on Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) – a preventable heart condition that disproportionately affects Aboriginal people and continues to devastate Aboriginal communities across Australia.

This single funding award of up to \$25 million will empower visionary researchers, clinicians, innovators and community leaders to partner together to deliver transformative solutions for RHD. Led by a formidable *Spotlight Coordinating Team*, an extensive and dedicated network of partners will deliver streams of research and innovation activities that together bring about transformative solutions on a scale above and beyond traditional FHRI Fund programs and initiatives.

The Spotlight program represents one of the most inclusive funding opportunities in WA, and will require extensive partnerships with researchers, innovators, Aboriginal leaders, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Aboriginal Controlled Organisations and government organisations including those outside of the health area, clinicians, and communities to ensure a community-led, co-designed and system-wide approach.

Activities to address RHD will include prevention, diagnosis, control and treatment for Group A Streptococcus infection, Acute Rheumatic Fever and RHD.

**Join the conversation and partner to build brighter futures**

**Applications close 1.00pm (AWST) Wednesday, 6 May 2026**

**For more information visit:**

<https://fhrifund.health.wa.gov.au/Funding/Current-opportunities>

