**Presentation title**

Priorities for improving primary prevention of acute rheumatic fever in primary care

**Explain why your paper is relevant, important and of interest to GP22 participants**

This research outlines consensus priorities of primary care staff on improving management of skin sores and sore throats among people at risk of acute rheumatic fever. Presenting and reflecting these results to the wider general practice community is an important opportunity to progress translation into practice.

**Take home message**

* People working in primary care believe that demand-side, community-focused, strategies should be prioritised to prevent ARF.
* Engagement with communities, health workforce and addressing environmental health were identified as key strategies.
* Health system changes and resourcing to address these priorities require ongoing attention

**Background**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a high burden of acute rheumatic fever (ARF), following Group A streptococcal (Strep A) infection of the skin and throat. Antibiotic treatment of these Strep A infections can prevent development of ARF but is not well delivered.

**Aim / Hypothesis**

To establish what primary care staff think should be prioritised to improve management of skin sores and sore throats among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**Method**

Modified eDelphi survey of general practitioners and other people working in primary care.

**Results**

Twenty-six participants from five jurisdictions participated, 16/26 (62%) completed both survey rounds. Fifteen broad concepts on improving primary prevention were considered. Seven concepts were endorsed as high priorities, predominantly demand-side strategies on engaging communities in accessible, comprehensive, culturally appropriate primary health care. Eight concepts were not considered high priorities, including improved guidelines and additional training. Qualitative responses highlighted the importance of a comprehensive primary health care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and environmental health activities to prevent Strep A infections.

**Discussion**

Primary care staff prioritise partnership with communities, empowerment and self-management supports as having greatest potential to improve treatment of skin sores and sore throats, rather than disease-specific strategies alone.

**Conclusion**

Primary care staff identify that a comprehensive approach is needed to reduce the burden of ARF in Australia, requiring attention to both health systems and health resourcing.