

## The Baby Teeth Talk Study; follow-up at age 5 years

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Although we are yet to complete data collection and analyse the results, we anticipate that the ECC intervention conducted in early life continues to demonstrate efficaciousness at child age 5 years, with the benefits being not only for reduced levels of dental disease, but for anthropometric, nutritional and psychosocial outcomes.

This is because the motivational interviewing and anticipatory guidance components of the initial intervention were wide in their remit, and encompassed directives including nutrition, general health, health checks and hygiene.

If long-term efficacy of the intervention can be demonstrated, progression of adult chronic diseases could be delayed while social and emotional well-being is enhanced. This means participants may enjoy improved health, greater quality of life and are more capable of contributing to their communities in a meaningful way.

We have continued to have regular oversight from the study's Aboriginal Reference Group, maintained strong rapport with the community and have excellent participant retention, which means that the buy-in for the next phase of the research will likely be strong (always an important component when working with any community group, but especially relevant when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations).

Indeed, continuing to follow-up children is in direct response to feedback from study participants, who have greatly appreciated being involved in a context-specific health promotion initiative that has benefits more broad in range than prevention of dental disease.