



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future

## ACFF ANZ CHAPTER COMMUNITY GRANTS

2022

**TITLE:** Early Childhood Caries: From Phenotype to Prevention

**RECIPIENT/S:** Dr Mihiri Silva and A/Prof Michael Smith

**ORGANISATION:** Barwon Health

**DISCUSSION:** Dental caries is a common and significant childhood disease. In operation since 2013, Wide Smiles is a unique community oral health promotion initiative delivered by Barwon Health Oral Health Services that provides screening and fluoride varnish application through kindergartens and schools (Prep-Grade 1) in regional and rural towns in the Barwon area.

This funding applications seeks to improve data management and overall program coordination and the evaluation of the program by applying emerging health informatics approaches to evaluate the program. Finding from this evaluation will enable the development of effective approaches to community fluoride varnish programs.

**Objectives:**

- To describe cross-sectional and longitudinal patterns of dental caries in children and evaluate the role of social factors (eg social disadvantage, rural location) in influencing disease pattern, lesion initiation, progression and arrest.
- To quantify the effect of fluoride varnish application on dental caries initiation, progression and arrest for children with different risk profiles and disease patterns.