



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future

## ACFF ANZ CHAPTER COMMUNITY GRANTS

2022

**TITLE:** **Primary carers' knowledge and practices of infant oral health promotion.**

**RECIPIENT/S:** Dr Lesley Andrew, Dr Ruth Wallace, Dr Mohamed Estai

### **ORGANISATION:**

**DISCUSSION:** Early childhood caries disproportionately affects vulnerable paediatric groups and remains a leading cause of preventable hospital admissions for Western Australian (WA) preschool children.

The study aligns with the WA State Oral Health Plan aim to redress this through universal and targeted health promotion initiatives with primary caregivers.

These initiatives require contemporary evidence of primary caregiver oral health literacy and influential sociological determinants.

The proposed research will develop this evidence through a series of focus groups.

Findings will inform the development of an oral health App and oral health programs for health professionals who work with preschool children and primary caregivers.

### **Objectives**

- Understand the child oral health knowledge and behaviours of primary caregivers of children aged 0-5 years regarding nutrition, feeding, dental hygiene and dentist engagement.
- Identify factors contributing to oral health literacy among WA primary caregivers, including influential social determinants.
- Identify incentives or strategies that can improve oral health knowledge and practices among WA primary caregivers.
- Assess primary caregiver's Child Dental Benefit Schedule (CDBS) knowledge.