







## 2026 Scholarly Activity

# Heavy Metal Tooth Fairy Project

**Two (2) RCSWA students** are invited to evaluate aspects of this unique project which aims to improve understanding of the cumulative exposure to environmental contaminants in remote Australia over the life course, and empower remote communities to test their drinking water and advocate for improvements. This work builds on the ground-breaking Western Desert Kidney Health Project 2007-2014.

### PROJECT ASPECTS FOR EVALUATION

-  Encourage families living between Wiluna, Norseman and the Central Desert as well as families in metropolitan Perth to donate their children's baby teeth when they naturally fall out. These will be analysed for heavy metal exposure and the results compared.
-  Deliver a dental hygiene education package to all children at participating schools.
-  Coordinate a citizen science project where school children and remote community members are shown how to test water for contamination. Community members will work with a team of UWA scientists to identify and map problems with drinking water contamination, and may collect dust samples for analysis.
-  Coordinate a family history project to collect information about where participating children have lived to identify potential sites of exposure to contamination.

### Contact Supervisor

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