



YELLOW DOVE AUSTRALIA
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO AUSTRALIA

Brush and Wash Initiative

Overview:

The Brush and Wash initiative highlights the importance of daily routines, such as brushing teeth and washing faces, in promoting student well-being. These practices not only improve physical health but also contribute to positive social-emotional development, stronger classroom relationships, and enhanced mental well-being. Yellow Dove Australia recently secured a \$570 grant from the Variety Foundation to purchase oral hygiene products in support of this program.

Implementation and Outcomes:

The grant of \$570 was entirely allocated to purchasing oral hygiene products, resulting in:

- **200 toothbrushes**
- **60 tubes of toothpaste**

These supplies were gifted to Wiluna Remote Community School, a small remote school which sits on the edge of The Great Sandy Desert in Western Australia. The items were presented to the school's principal, Emily Vanderberg, and will be distributed among the classes in Term 1, 2025 as part of their ongoing well-being initiatives.

The Brush and Wash program is integrated with health initiatives such as Breathe, Blow, Cough, which assist in addressing hearing implications commonly experienced by Aboriginal students, such as otitis media. By reducing the risk of ear infections through these hygiene practices, students experience improved auditory health, which is essential for effective learning and communication.

Brushing teeth and washing faces also assist in:

- **Building Confidence and Self-Esteem:** Empowering students to take pride in their personal hygiene.
- **Promoting Mental and Physical Well-Being:** Encouraging habits that positively impact overall health and emotional resilience.
- **Fostering Positive Classroom Engagement:** Helping students feel prepared and confident to interact with peers and teachers.

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Impact:

The Brush and Wash initiative contributes to:

1. Improved Well-Being: Encouraging daily hygiene habits that enhance students' physical and mental health.
2. Stronger Teacher-Student Relationships: Promoting a caring and supportive classroom environment.
3. Enhanced Educational Outcomes: Addressing health issues that may otherwise hinder learning, such as hearing impairments and low self-confidence.

Acknowledgment:

Yellow Dove Australia extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Variety Foundation for their generous support and belief in our mission to empower and uplift marginalised communities. The funding has enabled us to make a tangible impact at Wiluna Remote Community School, a community with a meaningful connection to Yellow Dove Australia through Ryan Chapman, who serves as a schoolteacher there.

We look forward to continuing to deliver programs like Brush and Wash, which align with our pillars of education, health, and well-being, and contribute to fostering healthier, more resilient communities.

Warm Regards,

Ryan Chapman
CEO and Founder
Yellow Dove Australia



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