

The background is a vibrant green with faint, stylized patterns of circles and dots. Several large, red puzzle pieces are scattered around the central illustration. A large, dark grey number '9' is positioned in the upper right quadrant. The koala is a light grey color with a large, light blue oval on its back featuring a pattern of small, dark grey lines. It has large, expressive eyes and is holding a brown telescope with a blue lens and a pink band. The text 'THE MISSING PIECE STORY' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline, following the curve of the koala's back.

THE MISSING PIECE STORY

Looking for the Missing Pieces

THE KIDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA
WESFARMERS CENTRE OF VACCINES & INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Acknowledgements

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal ownership of the land, waters, and sky of Australia in continuity for more than 60,000 years. We sincerely acknowledge the wisdom and experience of the following contributors:

- i) all study participants and their families and caregivers who live on Yawuru and Warrwa lands in the Kimberley region of Western Australia;
- ii) all staff at participating schools, in particular the department, leadership teams, classroom teachers, and professional staff who facilitated regular health checks during class time;
- iii) the nurses and healthcare workers from Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service and Derby Aboriginal Health Service who provided support to weekly active surveillance,
- iv) the laboratory personnel and students who facilitated sample receipt, supportive academic collaborators, and
- v) all volunteers and support staff who helped with surveillance and logistical activities.

We acknowledge the students at St Mary's College who volunteered time, energy and enthusiasm to develop these storybooks, provided feedback on the messages and willingly demonstrated essential aspects of Strep A surveillance.

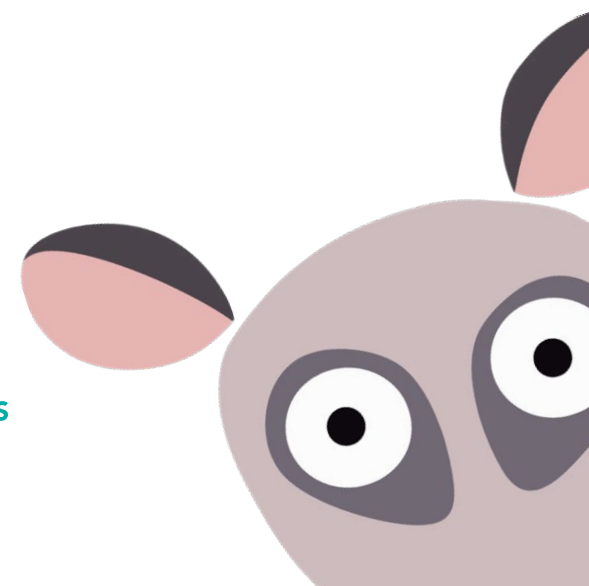


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What is one way **scientists**
find out what makes us sick?

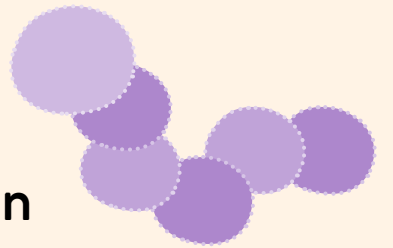


SAMPLES

Samples help to tell scientists
about people when they are
sick and healthy...



and about the things that can
make us sick, like **Strep A.**



Samples are very **important** for science.



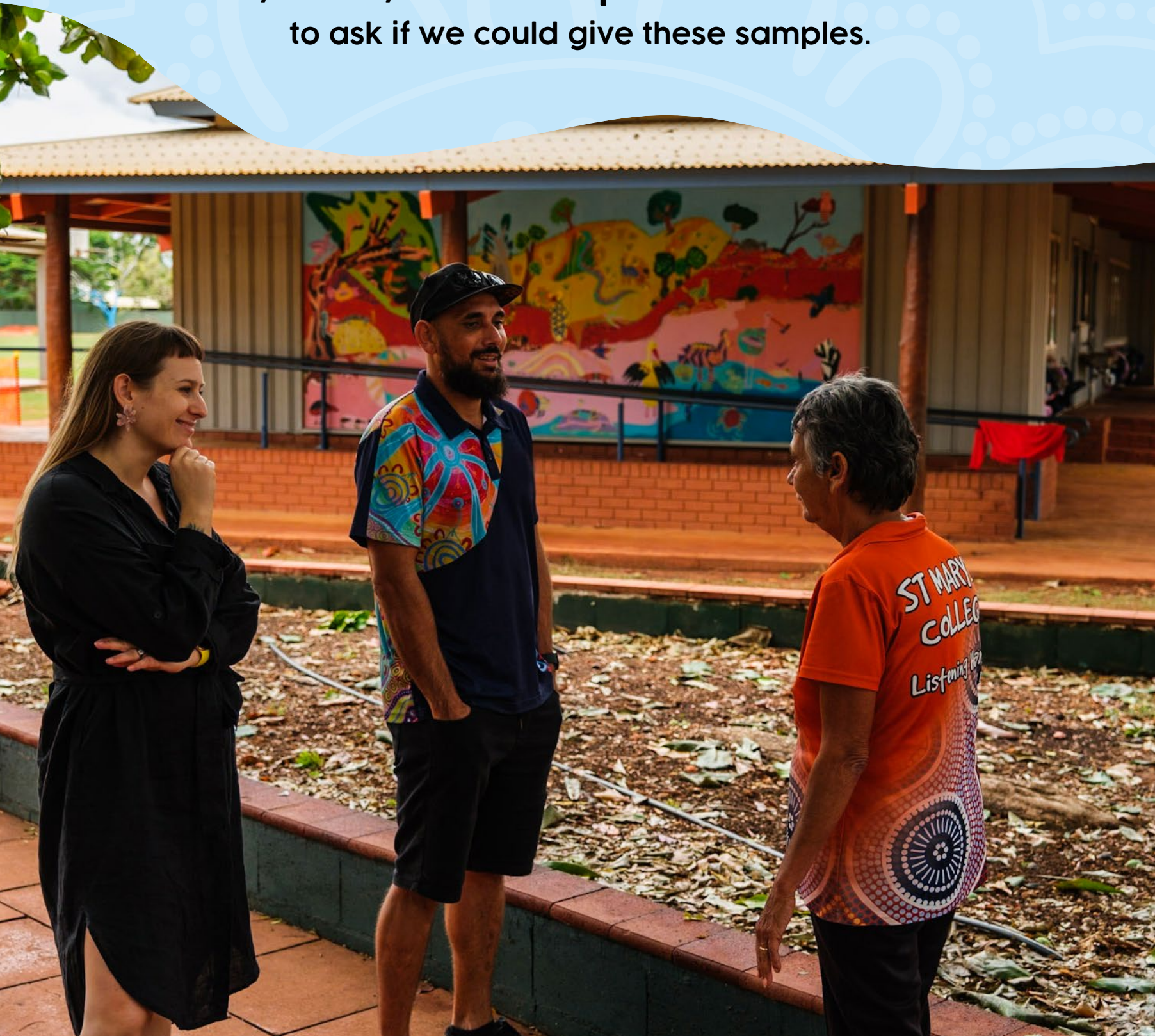
They are little scraps of stuff from us and from our places.

People at **The Kids Research Institute Australia**
in Perth needed help to learn more about Strep A.



So they came to us for **help**. They asked if we could
give them samples from ourselves and our places.

They had a yarn with our **parents and carers**
to ask if we could give these samples.



Some came from our **skin**.

Some came from our **blood**.



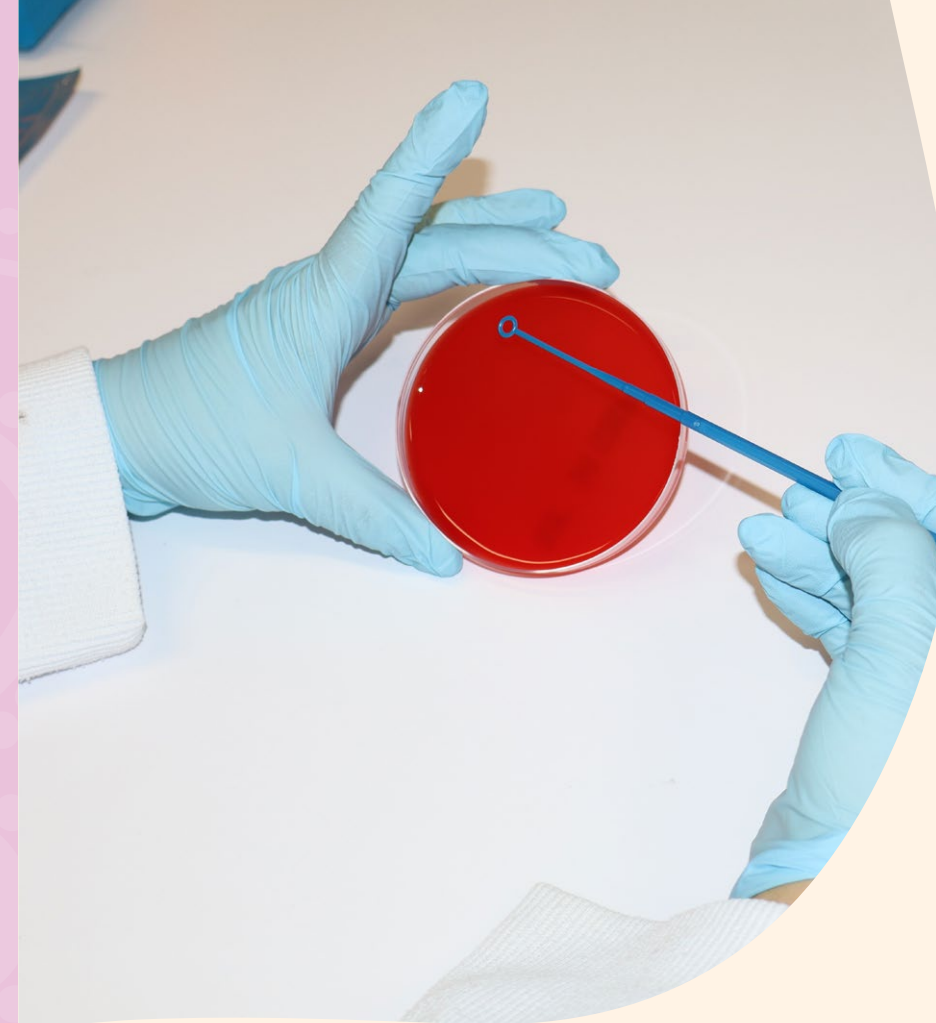
Some came from our **classrooms** and **play areas**.



To keep the samples **safe** on the long trip back to Perth, they need to be kept **cool** from the hot sun...

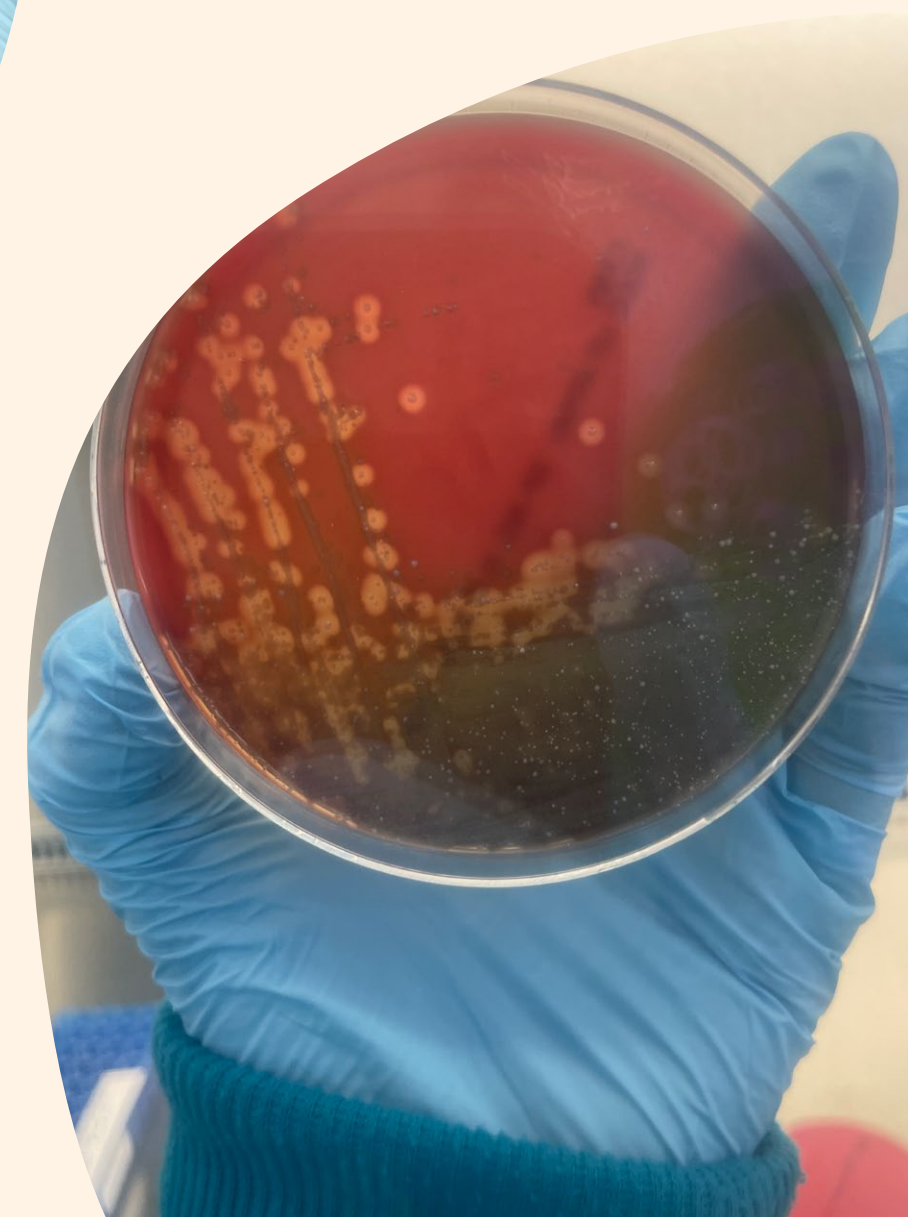


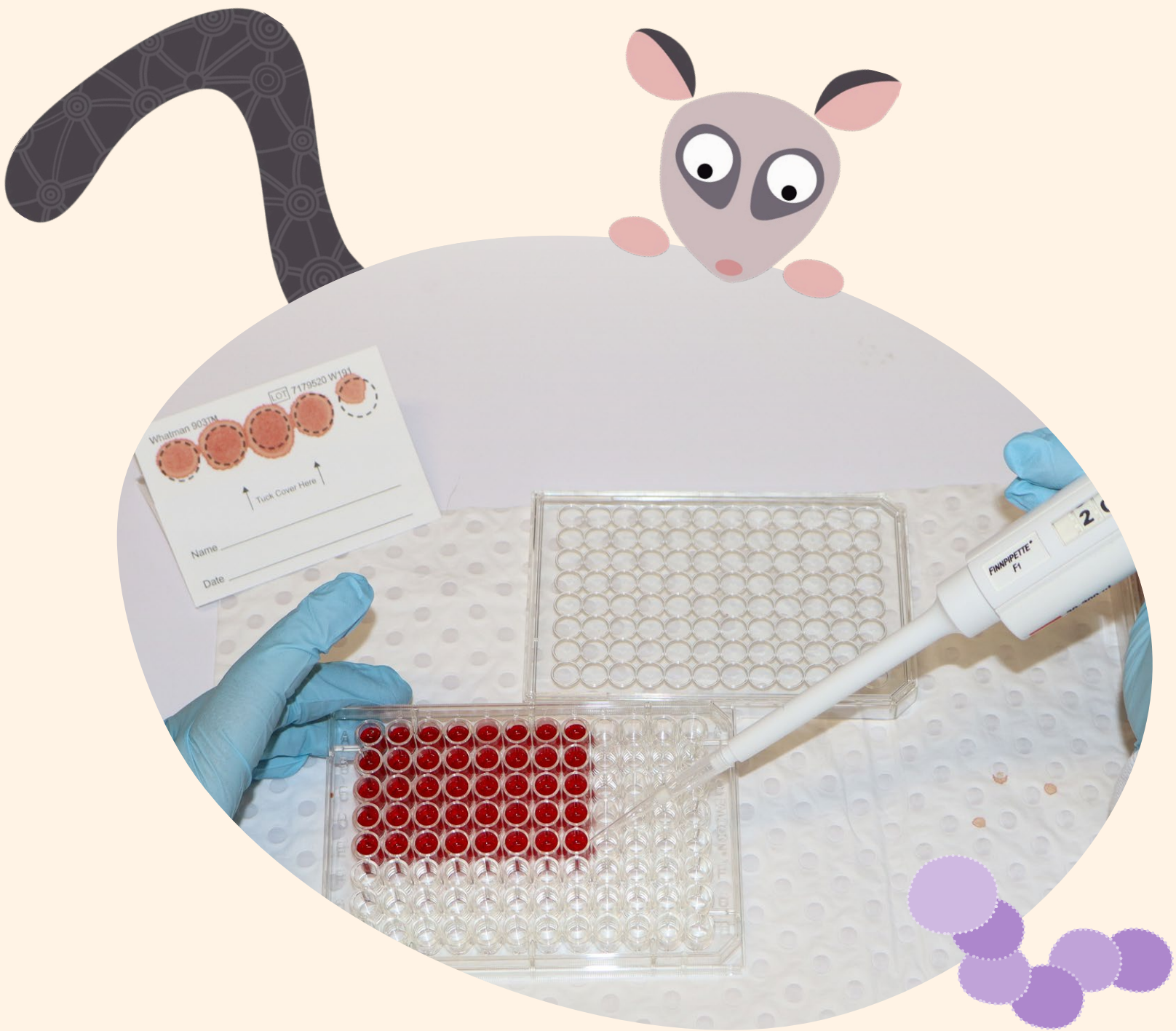
and **protected** so they don't get broken on the bumpy trip.



When they arrive in Perth, scientists **test** them to see if they can find Strep A.

The samples from our throat are grown on special **jelly** to find Strep A.





The samples of our **blood** helps scientists know how much Strep A there is.

After the scientists are done, they **store** the samples in a very cold freezer to keep them safe.



These samples help scientists to
learn more about Strep A.



This is an important step to keep
us and our community **healthy**.

With our **help**,
scientists can keep
learning more so
we can all stay well.



A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE COMMUNITIES OF
ST MARY'S COLLEGE, BROOME AND HOLY ROSARY SCHOOL, DERBY
FOR THEIR HELP IN CREATING THESE BOOKS.



THE ARTWORK

The artwork throughout this storybook, by Nyikina-Yawuru artist Kelli Savietto, is a tribute to the Missing Piece Story.

The possum, known for its adaptability and protective care of young ones, embodies the resilience and nurturing spirit at the heart of this work. Its tail displays The Kids First Nations 'Community' pattern, representing collaborative research efforts, while its chest bears the 'Forest' pattern of countless leaves and grass blades, each symbolising a child this research aims to protect.

The main illustration (right) depicts the research journey unfolding across the ancient landscapes of Yawuru (Broome) and Warrwa (Derby) in the Kimberley. Country is celebrated through imagery of land, waters, and sky, while traditional patterns weave throughout, embodying the enduring bonds of community connection.

A winding road travels from north to south, mapping the significant journey of samples collected from children's throats, skin, blood, and schools as they make their way to Boorloo (Perth). Along this road, possum tracks mark the presence of every person contributing to this vital Strep A research—from study participants and their families to educators, health professionals, laboratory teams, and dedicated volunteers.

Above all, the sun radiates hope and determination across the scene, illuminating the path toward positive outcomes and the promise of healthier futures for Aboriginal youth.

The puzzle piece artwork (back cover) completes the narrative, representing the discovery of 'the missing piece' itself—where patterns symbolise the careful gathering and analysis of data by scientists working toward a breakthrough discovery.



Contributors

We acknowledge the photography by Michael from Jalaru Photography, the production by Clements + Co Studio and the graphic design and illustrations by Kelli Savietto.

CLEMENTS&CO
studio



kelli savietto

These storybooks were conceived by Missing Piece Surveillance study team, namely Dr Janessa Pickering and Professor Asha Bowen. We acknowledge the following contributors who developed, curated and assisted in the publication of story books including the entire Missing Piece Surveillance study team, the Kimberley Kulunga team (Liam Bedford and Slade Sibosado), Cassandra Fernando, Dr Ann Grand, Dr Heather Bray, Rebecca Dalton, Bonnie Hyatt, Bernadette Wong and Tammy Gibbs.

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Story Book #2: Looking for the Missing Pieces (2025). Broome, Australia.





STORYBOOK #2 OF THREE

This is book 2 of 3 in a series of books that tells stories about sore throats and skin sores in the Kimberley, Western Australia. In the Missing Piece Surveillance Study, school students in Broome and Derby helped scientists work out lots of new things about Strep A, a nasty bug that causes infections and can damage the heart. In this book, students and scientists explain how the study was performed, and what information was collected.

Pssstt, read books 1 and 3 to find out why they did the study and what they found!

IN THIS SERIES

What's Missing
Looking for the Missing Pieces
What We Found