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The prevalence and molecular characterization of *Blastocystis* isolates from wild Australian native fauna.

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A subset of *Blastocystis*- positive animals will undergo DNA sequencing and phylogenetic characterisation in order to determine the taxonomic placement of isolates infecting these mammals. This will also determine whether *Blastocystis* infecting native marsupials in SW WA, are likely to present a potential zoonotic hazard for humans through faecal contamination of surface waters. We also investigate if a correlation exists between the subtype of *Blastocystis* and the animal's age and body condition