

National Best Practice Unit – Tackling Indigenous Smoking
Advisory Group Meeting #4
30 March 2017
By Teleconference
Communiqué



The Advisory Group for the National Best Practice Unit for Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) met by teleconference on Thursday 30 March 2017.

The main business of the meeting was to note the way forward identified at the workshop in Adelaide in October 2016, as preparation for the Advisory Group face to face meeting to be held in conjunction with the National TIS Workshop in May 2017.

Advisory Group members welcomed the news that the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister for Aged Care and Indigenous Health received the initial findings of the preliminary evaluation of the TIS program and agreed to continue funding for the Regional Tobacco Control grants and National Coordinator components of the TIS program for 2017-18.

Members noted that TIS stakeholders, particularly evaluation participants, had expressed strong interest in the public release of the preliminary evaluation report. The preliminary evaluation report is likely to be publicly released later in the year. The Advisory Group also noted that the issue of continuity of funding had been raised consistently by TIS organisations throughout the evaluation.

The meeting briefly considered the possible ways forward arising from the Advisory Group's discussions in September and October, noting that detailed discussion of the possible actions is scheduled for the next meeting.

- The Department is undertaking a stocktake of state-funded Indigenous-specific and whole-of-population activities around tobacco control as part of a process that is looking at preventive health investment to address the key risk factors for disease (tobacco, nutrition and physical activity, and alcohol). Meetings and/or out of session work with jurisdictional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership Forums,¹ are expected to take place in coming weeks.
- Improving collaboration between mainstream tobacco control activities and the TIS program has been placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the National Expert Reference Group on Tobacco.²

Advisory Group members noted the report of the NBPU TIS survey of TIS organisations (grant recipients) conducted in late 2016, as part of the *NBPU TIS Framework for Measuring Performance*.

The Advisory Group noted the opportunities for showcasing TIS activities at the 2017 *Oceania Tobacco Control Conference* to be held in Hobart Tasmania, 17-19 October.

The next Advisory Group meeting will be held in Adelaide on 10 May 2017.

¹ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Partnership Forums are jurisdiction-focused and comprise representatives from Commonwealth, State and Territory governments working on Indigenous health, and representatives of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health peak bodies.

² NERGoT is the formal mechanism for consultation and collaboration between Commonwealth (Health and Department of Immigration and Border Protection) and states and territories. It reports to the National Drug Committee.