



National Best Practice Unit – Tackling Indigenous Smoking

Advisory Group Meeting #3

1 September 2016

(Teleconference)

Summary for distribution

The NBPU TIS Advisory Group met for the third time on 1 September 2016, by teleconference. The meeting was chaired by Mr Bradley Brown from Cancer Council Victoria.

Members of the NBPU TIS Advisory Group include the National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking (Professor Tom Calma), as well as representatives from the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector (NACCHO and affiliates), researchers with expertise in tobacco control, Cancer Councils, government policy makers, the TIS national program evaluator (CIRCA), the Department of Health, and representatives of NBPU TIS consortium members.

The meeting focused on opportunities to enhance outcomes for the TIS programme, and addressed four key questions:

1. Regional delivery expectations (How can TIS-funded organisations be encouraged and empowered to work outside their usual footprint? What regional/local support is available to them to collaborate with other organisations?)
2. Reaching out beyond TIS participants (How can TIS-funded organisations and NBPU TIS work most effectively with non-TIS organisations?)
3. Improving the effectiveness of smoke-free workplace / environment activities (What avenues are available to support senior managers and Board members to take a leadership role in implementing effective smoke free workplaces?)
4. Variable organisational and workforce capabilities (What additional assistance might be needed and/or available to assist TIS-funded organisations address workforce and organisational capability issues?)

In discussion, different aspects of these questions were explored and potential ways forward suggested.

It was noted that while TIS-funded organisations are under contract to work across whole regions many (but not all) face a number of barriers to doing so effectively. In some cases

tendering processes can undermine regional relationships and organisations may also have informal ways of working at regional level which may be difficult to capture.

Whilst the experience of the Aboriginal community controlled sector in building partnerships was acknowledged, members stated that in some places training in building partnerships could help to enhance capabilities. A number of ways forward were proposed for further discussion:

- the role of ACCHO peak bodies in negotiating and promoting regional and whole of state collaboration,
- promotion of successful regional approaches, for example at TIS Workshops, and
- independent facilitation of collaborative meetings at a regional level.

The Advisory Group also talked about the importance of engaging with and securing the support of senior leadership within TIS-funded organisations as a vital foundation for the success of their regional tobacco control activities. Potential ways forward for further investigation included:

- promoting the TIS programme in existing forums, such as meetings of ACCHO members organised by peak bodies and/or jurisdictional Health Forum meetings,
- the NBPU TIS to encourage senior management attendance at TIS workshops as appropriate, and
- promotion of the TIS portal to help raise senior management involvement.

The discussion was only able to touch upon some of the main points in these complex areas. The Advisory Group agreed that it would be useful to hold an additional face-to-face workshop to examine strategic issues for improving the outcomes of the TIS programme more deeply; and asked that the Secretariat examine the possibility of organising such a workshop around the next TIS jurisdictional workshop in Adelaide on 19 October 2016.

The next Advisory Group time and location is to be confirmed.

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