



Australian Government
Department of Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

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Preventive Health, Renal Health & Infrastructure section

Indigenous Health Division

Department of Health

National Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) CEOs' Workshop

8 May 2019

Hilton Hotel, Adelaide



My presentation will . . .

- (Re)introduce you to the TIS Team in National Office, Canberra and what we do
- Provide a brief overview of how the Department has been responding to the final evaluation report of the 2015-16 – 2017-18 TIS program (CIRCA, June 2018)
- Reiterate what has changed from the last TIS program
- Advise you about expected developments over the coming year for
 - TIS
 - other national tobacco control initiatives



Limitations during ‘caretaker’ period

- It is important to note that the Government is in ‘caretaker’ mode
- This means that I will be limiting my statements today to factual issues and matters of administration
- In terms of policy matters, I am able to provide insight into previous policy positions only



TIS Policy Team in National Office



- Clayton Irwin – Grants and policy support officer
- Margo Saunders – Procurement and policy support officer
- Me
- Marlene Duus- Grants lead
- Andrew Perusco – TIS Team leader



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Where do we fit in?



NATIONAL EVALUATION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR TIS

National Evaluators (Part A: CIRCA and Part B: TBC)



NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR TISTIS (NCTIS)



Leadership, strategic direction and advice to support the effectiveness of the Program

NBPU-TIS

Enabling access of TIS Teams to high-quality information, knowledge, advice and support for their work

TIS TEAMS

Community action, engagement and advocacy

Designing, delivering, monitoring, evaluating and continually improving a range of population health promotion activities as defined by an agreed Action Plan

TIS PROGRAM REGIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS



Supporting TIS teams and workers to:
• achieve their objectives
• build and maintain their skills and knowledge and
• attend key workshops and other events organised by NBPU-TIS

National evaluation

Grant administration and compliance

Performance reporting

Community Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Quitline
Quitskills

Partnership working

Continuous Improvement Cycle

Policy and Program design



Commonwealth Government Department of Health

Relationship building

State and Territory Departments of Health





What does the TIS Policy Team do?

- Lead the program – advise on/implement program policy, conduit to Minister
- Ministerial briefings
- Senate Estimate briefings
- Question Time briefings
- Manage overall TIS budget (\$183.74m over 4 years)



- Lead RTCG contracts (selection and design)
- Manage contracts with CIRCA, NBPU, National Coordinator, Quitline, Quitskills, ANU and Uni of Newcastle
- Consider evidence and advice to inform program development
- Interface with mainstream tobacco control on initiatives such as legislative reviews, the National Tobacco Strategy, and the Tobacco Policy Officers Group
- Interface with other Indigenous Health Division work



- Participate in the National Expert Reference Group on Tobacco, which:
 - provides advice to the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) and
 - is important for progressing evidence-based policy and program responses to a range of tobacco issues such as e-cigarettes and smoking among people with mental illness
- Work with the CIRCA Evaluation Advisory Group and the NBPU Advisory Group to help deliver the best possible level of support for RTCG recipients and other TIS components



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Burning question re R&R... who looks at your Activity Work Plans?

- **NBPU:** quality of content/ described activities (Activity Work Plans and Performance Reports) to enable better practice, capacity building and reporting
- **Community Grants Hub:** compliance and acquittals
- **TIS Policy Team:** on an exceptional basis
- **State and Territory offices:** on an exceptional basis



Introducing two new items of work managed by TIS Policy Team

- **Australian National University: TIS impact and outcome assessment from 2010**
- **Purpose:** to quantify the impact and outcomes of RTCG work on smoking prevalence and other tobacco-related indicators among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - Will compare regions/service areas with and without TIS, and
 - Will utilise both existing and new data
- **Note:** looking and TIS boundaries



- **University of Newcastle: iSistaQuit program**
- **Purpose:** to improve rates of smoking cessation by Indigenous pregnant women by:
 - Expanding the SistaQuit program including to a selection of mainstream Medical and Health Services in areas with a large Indigenous population
 - Delivering related social media
 - Reviewing the three interventions that focussed on pregnant women, delivered under the Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) Innovation Grants (2015-16 to 2017-18)



TIS Policy Team responses to evaluation recommendations from July 2018 evaluation report

Examples of what we have done:

- ✓ Expanded the scope of the NBPU to provide input on RTCG Performance Reports
- ✓ Tasked NBPU with disseminating evidence, information and resources to meet RTCG recipients' needs, including interpreting and applying evidence-based approaches in different settings



- ✓ Tasked the NBPU to deliver a national workshop for TIS workers to share and learn best practice
- ✓ Included, in the requirements for the University of Newcastle's TIS work, a review of innovation grant projects relevant to smoking in pregnancy, with a view to sharing the findings and lessons learned
- ✓ Included, in the requirements for the Australian National University's TIS work, the inclusion of non-TIS comparison regions in the regional grants impact and outcomes assessment



- ✓ Tasked NBPU to produce ongoing communication about TIS to relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Secured the services of the National Coordinator-TIS on a 2 + 2 contract
- ✓ Tasked the NBPU to provide a greater focus on the principles and practices of population health and health promotion in the jurisdictional workshops
- ✓ Supporting tobacco control for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in areas not serviced by regional TIS teams through emphasis on population health approaches + continuation of Quitline enhancement, Quitskills program and information on the TIS portal



And we are (work in train). . .

- ✓ Working with CIRCA on finalising performance report and activity work plan templates and the Monitoring & Evaluation Framework, Performance Indicators and other key documents
- ✓ Exploring options for special initiatives to address particular challenges in remote and some rural contexts



A reminder of what else has changed

- ✓ Ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who do not attend ACCHSs are captured by interventions
- ✓ One-on-one approaches not being permissible outside exceptional circumstances
 - Primary Health Care funding should be used for one-on-one smoking cessation approaches



Clarification: Delivering TIS in prisons

Delivering TIS activities in prisons is permissible with the following qualifiers:

- You can demonstrate that this is a priority population group which warrants the allocation of time and resources over other population groups in the community
- Activities must be restricted to population health based work only: you can provide referrals to services within and outside the prisons (eg for when prisoners are released)
- Other funding and resources can be used to provide one-on-one counselling re quitting smoking for prisoners, but TIS funding cannot be used for that purpose



- If the state/territory government is already investing resources in this space, you would need to have a strong case as to why you should also be doing this type of work in prisons
- You make these cases and demonstrate this need in your Activity Work Plans that are required under our Funding Agreement
- Must target Indigenous prisoners only



What will the TIS Policy Team be doing over the coming year?

Depends on Government but we think ...

RTCGs:

- Progressing Deed of Variations to formalise:
 - Population health approach
 - New Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Implementing revised Activity Work Plans and Performance Reports developed by CIRCA
- More information will be provided about these as it becomes available



Target population group: Indigenous smokers in remote areas

- New work TBA

Monitoring contracts:

- ANU, University of Newcastle
- CIRCA
- NBPU
- National Coordinator-TIS
- Quitline, Quitskills



Using advice on RTCGs' activity and performance

- Considering advice from the NBPU and Community Hub on what RTCG recipients are doing, and how well they are performing, to inform policy and program development



National tobacco control initiatives:

It is not possible to say what a new Government might do, and timing and priorities are matters for the Government.

However. . .

Work is progressing on a new National Tobacco Strategy.

- The Strategy is currently expected to commence in late 2019, subject to endorsement by relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers via the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (timing is subject to change following the election)

. . .



- There is also a review of national tobacco control legislation
- Both major political parties have committed to a new major national tobacco campaign



Thank you

Questions?