



Australian Government
Department of Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

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National Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) CEOs' Workshop

7 May 2020

Zoom



A reminder of who we are





What's happened over the last year ?

New data

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced some update data: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2018-19*
 - Around four in 10 (41%) people aged 15 years and over were current smokers
 - 13.8% of people in Australia smoke
 - 37% smoked every day and 3% smoked but not every day
 - The proportion of people who smoked every day was:
 - 4% lower than in 2012–13
 - about the same for males (39%) and females (36%)
 - higher for people living in remote areas (49%) than in non-remote areas (35%)
 - lowest for people aged 15–17 years (10%), compared with around 40% for all other age groups.
 - People aged 15 years and over who smoked every day averaged 12 cigarettes per day.



What's happened over the last year ?

The good news

- The proportion of people aged 18 years and over who smoked every day steadily decreased in non-remote areas over the last 14 years, from 49% in 2004–05 to 37% in 2018–19.
- The proportion of young people who had never smoked between 2012–13 and 2018–19 increased:
 - from 77% to 85% for those aged 15–17 years and
 - from 43% to 50% for those aged 18–24 years.

The bad news

- The proportion of people in remote areas aged 18 years and over who smoked every day did not change significantly from 2012–13 and 2018–19



What's happened over the last year ?

New/expanded remote RTCGs

- Expanded funding to Congress, Alice Springs, NT
- Implementing 3 new remote RTCGs:
 - Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, Tiwi Islands, NT
 - Torres Health Indigenous Corporation, Torres Strait Islands, QLD
 - Wurli Wurlinjang Aboriginal Corporation, Katherine, NT
- Commissioning CIRCA to do a more in-depth evaluation of the sites regarding barriers and enablers to smoking cessation in remote areas
- Commissioning NBPU to have a resource dedicated to supporting new/expanded sites



What's happened over the last year ?

New NT Remote Indigenous Tobacco Control Working Group

- Sits under the NT Health Partnerships Forum
- Chaired by Prof David Thomas, Menzies
- Members: AMSANT, NT Gov, Cth Gov, Menzies, NIAA, NBPU
- First meeting: 29 April 2020; meets every month
- First deliverable: workplan
- Potential for extrapolation to other remotes areas



What's happened over the last year ?

Smoking in Pregnancy Roundtable

- 20 February 2020 in Canberra
- Chaired by Prof Tom Calma
- Approx 35 participants; approx 15 presenters
- Main themes – need more: trauma-informed approaches; wrap-around services; improved health service and client education
- Video and transcript: available soon



What's happened over the last year ?

Governance

- NBPU Advisory Group has ceased
- TIS Technical Advisory Group has been established
- Inaugural meeting late May 2020

Administration

- With CIRCA, finalised performance report and activity work plan templates and the Monitoring & Evaluation Framework and Performance Indicators
- Completed a Deed of Variation



What's happened over the last year ?

Continued to work with:

- ANU on outcome evaluation
- CIRCA on impact evaluation
- Professor Tom Calma AO on national co-ordination
- Quitlines
- Cancer Council SA on Quitskills
- DSS Community Grants Hub on grants administration
- University of Newcastle on iSISTAQUIT (*handing over to Associate Professor Gillian Gould just before the end of this presentation*)
- National Best Practice Unit for TIS
- National Expert Reference Group on Tobacco



What's happened over the last year ?

COVID-19

- RTCGs are encouraged to continue to work on TIS activities
- Evidence is emerging that smoking may increase risk of infection and may inhibit recovery
- There are immediate benefits when smoking is ceased that may be protective
- If RTCG holders believe there is a need to use TIS funding or underspend for a non-TIS COVID-19 related purpose, please send the request to do so via your FAM.
- Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and there is no guarantee of approval.



What are our plans for the coming year?

- Continue to focus on remote area smokers and pregnant women
- Continuous quality improvement:
 - Quitlines
 - Quitskills
 - NBPU thematic review of AWPAs
 - Other...
- Continue to work productively with stakeholders; work on identifying the best use of resources



- *Handing over to Assoc Prof Gillian Gould for an iSISTAQUIT update*



Questions



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Thank
You

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