



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

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Department of Health

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**NT TIS Jurisdictional Workshop**

13 August 2020

Zoom



# What's happened over the last year ?

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## New data

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produced update data: *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2018-19*
  - Around four in 10 (41%) Indigenous people aged 15 years and over were current smokers
    - 37% smoked every day and another 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 ?

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## 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 between 2012–13 and 2018–19.



# What's happened over the last year ?

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## **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 ?

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## **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 in April 2020; meets every month
- First deliverable: workplan
- Potential for extrapolation to other remotes areas



# What's happened over the last year ?

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## **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 ?

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## **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 that changed reporting timelines



# What's happened over the last year ?

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## Continued to work with:

- ANU on outcome evaluation
- CIRCA on impact evaluation
- Professor Tom Calma 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*)





# What's happened over the last year ?

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## 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?

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- Continue to focus on remote 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



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# Questions



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Thank  
You

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