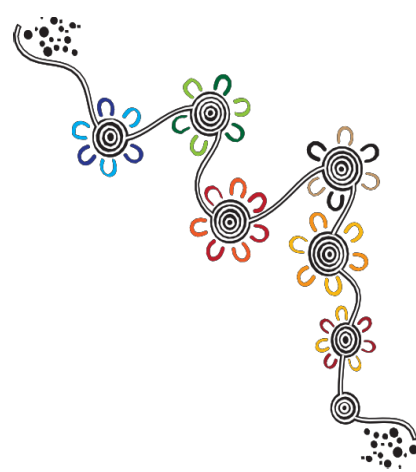


TACKLING INDIGENOUS SMOKING TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP



MEETING #2: Tuesday 16 March 2021

Communique

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking Technical Advisory Group (TIS TAG) met by videoconference on 16 March 2021, chaired by Prof Tom Calma AO.

The Group discussed their priorities for action in tobacco control for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including

- the increasing harmful use of vaping / e-cigarettes and the evolving evidence and policy response to this;
- integration with the development of a number of relevant national plans / strategies such as the National Preventative Health Strategy and the next National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan; and
- the need to continue to focus on the 'big picture' and keep ahead of trends in tobacco use.

The meeting was also briefed on the TIS program evaluations, specifically:

- the mid-term report of the process and program improvement evaluation being carried out by CIRCA; and
- ongoing findings from the TIS program impact and outcomes evaluation being carried out by the Australian National University and Menzies School of Health Research. Initial analysis suggests areas serviced by the TIS Grant Recipients show a number of significant benefits in relation to smoking amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The meeting also discussed action in relation to TIS priority groups, specifically:

- work by Prof David Thomas with the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) and the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum (NTAHF) on developing a CQI guide for remote services; and
- ongoing work to engage Aboriginal community controlled health services with the work of the iSISTAQUIT program.

A number of issues were identified for further focused discussion in the future, including vaping / e-cigarettes and input into national policy settings.

The next Advisory Group meeting is expected to be held in June 2021.