

Partnership Working in Remote Areas

Challenges

Existing processes and messaging by other organisations – need to rework the messaging and re-educate the community

Internal policies that impede progress to engage with other organisations and this leads to missed opportunities

High turnover in other organisations can make it tricky to keep conversations going and to result in actions

Fitting into other organisations busy schedules

Lots of conversations and no actions

Finding synergies with other organisations

Aligning priorities with other organisations. Organisations have different priorities: while we all may have the same clients, not all organisations are interested in health and some are not keen to implement smoke free policies if they think it might stop their clients from coming in.

Competing Priorities and kpi's

Other health professionals may have different priorities such as mental health. They don't consider smoking as the key issue

Viabale programs in communities that are very remote from our service

Lack of access to remote communities

Difficulty connecting with TO to visit remote locations

Limitations around education re smoking and time to yarn with people around smoking – also health worker confidence in starting conversations if they are smokers themselves

Limited appropriate educational support for health workers. Confidence around starting the conversation and feeling out of depth with clients' needs

Access to NRT

Usage of quitline is not something that community is comfortable with as they would prefer face to face support, and/or someone familiar. Telephone and internet is often an issue for the people we work with and at times changing phone numbers, shared phones and cost is an issue.

Time spent in each community [is limited] due to COVID and organisational restrictions

Strengths

Working with other agencies to develop understanding of policy etc

Record the commitment made by other organisations [makes them accountable]

Partnerships with Deadly Choices and Healthy Harold - long term relationship and commitment

One of our strengths in TAS has been utilising school nurses to get into the busy school schedules

Finding synergies with other organisations

Support from other organisations through formal MOU

Partnering with local people as champions makes messaging more relevant to people

Strong collaborations within communities we visit

Being embedded In community using champions and local language messaging

Community engagement

Apunipima - we are commencing an audit of availability etc in the 11 communities we service then we will develop some strategies to ensure community members have access to and choice of NRT products.

Glen Benton the Aboriginal Partnerships Officer (Victoria) from Aboriginal Quitline has opened up the referral process for us

COVID has had some advantages – we have been building relationships and working more closely together