



Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Limited (DDACL)

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This story was submitted to the National Best Practice Unit for Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPUI TIS) by Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Limited (DDACL). Many thanks to the DDACL TIS team for sharing their story.

What area do you service?

The Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Limited (DDACL) Tackling Indigenous Smoking program provides smoking prevention and care throughout the DDACL catchment area, which includes Bayside, Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Knox, Monash and Mornington.



Tell us about your successful activity.

The DDACL TIS team partnered with eight organisations providing services to the Aboriginal community in holding stalls at our sixth World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Family Fun Run event. These included Headspace Frankston, Aboriginal Quitline, VAHS TIS team, Monash Health KMS, Cardinia Shire, DDACL KMS, Royal Botanical Gardens Cranbourne and Monash Dental. Our team also ran a tobacco education stall. We had a passport competition whereby the community had to visit each stall and answer a question that related to that organisation as well as to tobacco (eg the question for Monash dental was 'How many teeth does a smoker lose every 10 years?'). This was a great way to promote engagement with the organisations as well as highlight how much tobacco impacts the many areas of life. A winner was drawn from the 31 people who completed the passport competition. The Headspace Aboriginal health team provided a range of resources, mindfulness activities and information on how to access Headspace services to support a holistic approach to young people's social and emotional well-being. Aboriginal Quitline provided flyers for community members and accepted referrals on the day for community to engage in confidential calls with a trained counsellor and help on their quit journey. The VAHS TIS team's tobacco education stall was packed with flyers, games and their Smokerlyzer. They also provided information about accessing health services at VAHS, which was beneficial to community members who may not have been aware of their service. Monash Dental provided community members with a free dental check. Due to COVID restrictions, many community members were unable to utilise dental services unless it was to undergo emergency treatment. By having Monash Dental present at our WNTD event, after their check-up community were able to be informed what procedures they would need to undergo when booking for a dental appointment at their local dentist.





Who was the activity designed to reach?

The World No Tobacco Day Family Fun Run is a family event advertised for all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the DDAFL TIS catchment. As the WNTD theme this year was 'Commit To Quit', our team focused on how we could help our community make a change to their smoking. The TIS Team set up an interactive stall with information, merchandise and props which focused on how secondhand smoke affects pets and children as well as how tobacco affects the environment. Deadly Dan the smoke free man also featured throughout the event, handing out information and merchandise and cheering the runners on.



Can you sum up what you have achieved through this activity?

Many fun run participants took part in a family group and many partners, children and grandparents dressed up for the special occasion. Community were happy to be out connecting and engaging with the many organisations and other community members. We set up a designated smoking area which was 200 metres away and out of sight from the event. It was positive to see no community smoking during the event (and a very small amount using the designated area). The impact of bad weather was one difficulty we faced. We also had feedback from community and elders that they were afraid to get sick, especially since COVID was still active to some degree. To mitigate potential COVID restriction interruptions we created a COVID safe back-up plan during our project planning stage.