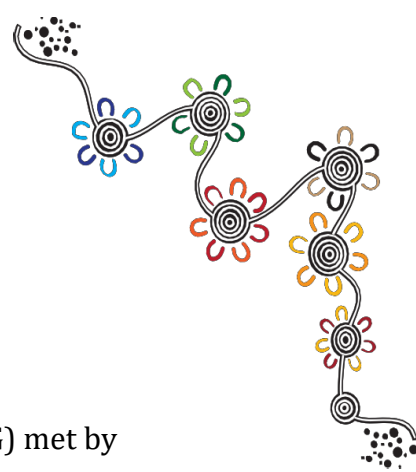


TACKLING INDIGENOUS SMOKING TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP



MEETING #3: Tuesday 15 June 2021

Communique

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking Technical Advisory Group (TIS TAG) met by videoconference on 15 June 2021.

The Group shared their priorities for action in tobacco control for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Common themes included the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and concerns about vaping / e-cigarettes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Members received a briefing on key issues for TIS from the perspective of the Department of Health, including maximizing the effectiveness of current activities; identifying emerging issues to be addressed in the future; supplementing prevention activities with early detection and treatment of tobacco-related diseases; and aligning the TIS program with other national policies.

The Group also discussed their vision for addressing tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities up to and beyond the current TIS program. The Department expressed that they welcome suggestions and feedback from key stakeholders including TIS TAG and TIS teams.

For the current funding period, members noted the need for a clear understanding of TIS teams' training needs; and the importance of avoiding delays in funding to maintain momentum in tackling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tobacco use.

For the longer term, members discussed:

- the ongoing impact of COVID on day-to-day TIS work
- the value of taking account of the evaluation results, which have demonstrated the effectiveness of the population health promotion approach
- the importance of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander leadership and expertise
- using a systems approach (including building on existing partnerships)
- continuing the important work on-the-ground by the TIS teams
- focusing on priority groups, such as pregnant women and families, people living in remote areas, and young people
- extending the reach of TIS activities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who use mainstream services and to those who live in areas not serviced by ACCHSs
- the need for population health promotion to link with high quality individual support (e.g. stronger Quitlines, mainstream smoking cessation support)
- the emerging issue of e-cigarettes (noting regional variations, and the fact that TIS teams already have the broad tools and skills to deal with this)
- the potential for State / Territory level leadership in TIS
- the need to seek feedback from TIS teams about their longer-term vision for TIS.

The date of the next Advisory Group meeting is to be set.