

National Best Practice Unit –
Tackling Indigenous Smoking

**JURISDICTIONAL
WORKSHOP REPORT
VICTORIA - TASMANIA**

12 October 2021

October 2021

Introduction

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) jurisdictional workshops are an important way in which the National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) provides support to the TIS teams located in the Regional Tobacco Control Grant (RTCG) organisations.

The workshops aim to:

- develop and create working relationships with TIS teams and Project Officers with the National Best Practice Unit
- promote an evidence-based approach to tackling smoking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- share best practice of ‘what works’ and develop a community of practice amongst TIS teams (peer-to-peer learning and network building).
- provide a forum for resolving implementation challenges.
- provide training and tools to assist TIS teams in program delivery; and
- ensure a shared understanding of the TIS program

There are six jurisdictional TIS workshops per year¹.

The Victoria-Tasmania Jurisdictional Workshop

Due to travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Victoria-Tasmania TIS jurisdictional workshop was held entirely by videoconference (Zoom) on 12 October 2021. The workshop was shortened to half a day (4 ½ hours) to accommodate the online format and previous feedback from teams that they would prefer a shorter session when working entirely online.

Attendance

The workshop was attended by 43 participants, including 24 representatives from all five Grant Recipients in Victoria and Tasmania. See [Attachment B](#) for a list of participants.

Program

A draft workshop program was developed based on consultation with TIS teams from the jurisdiction through an online survey. See [Attachment A](#) for an outline of the program as distributed to participants ahead of the workshop.

Summaries of the Workshop sessions are as follows – please see participant presentations on the Jurisdictional Workshop presentations page of the TIS Website² for details.

¹ The workshops for New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, and for Tasmania and Victoria are combined.

² See <https://tacklingsmoking.org.au/resources/jurisdictional-workshop-presentations/>.

- 1. Housekeeping (Damien House, NBPU Project Officer)**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country & Introductions (Damien House, NBPU Project Officer)**

Damien acknowledged the Country from which all participants joined the online meeting, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 3. NBPU TIS Update (Eileen Van Iersel, Manager NBPU TIS)**

Eileen spoke gave a brief update about what has been happening in the NBPU TIS during the last year.

There was a reminder of the NBPU TIS Consortium Structure and the staff structure of the NBPU TIS including the role of Professor Tom Calma as TIS National Coordinator, Rod Reeve as Project Director of the NBPU TIS, Associate Professor Penney Upton and Ashleigh Parnell of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfonet.

As a result of COVID-19, the NBPU TIS has had to look at ways of doing things differently. This has included recruiting a Project Officer based in Sydney to provide support to the NSW and ACT TIS team, and another based in Alice Springs who is picking up the NT and QLD teams. The NBPU currently has a vacancy in the Project Officer role for South Australian, Victorian and Tasmanian teams, with these teams being supported by other NBPU TIS staff while the recruitment process is completed.

Eileen informed participants of how the NBPU TIS works with Grant Recipients. In particular, she reminded teams that when developing resources (e.g. brochures, posters, advertisements etc.) to send drafts to the NBPU TIS for comments on the accuracy of information, the evidence base, and best practice.

She also talked briefly about the Tackling Indigenous Smoking website. This is the place for teams to get so much information to support the work that they are doing.

Despite COVID-19, the NBPU TIS has continued to convene workshops both face to face and virtual.

Eileen concluded by reminding teams of the dates for the reporting period and when 6 monthly Performance Reports are due in 2022.

- 4. National Co-ordinator – Latest Update for the TIS Program and Q&A (Prof. Tom Calma AO, National Co-ordinator TIS)**

Professor Tom gave an overview of the TIS program which was helpful to new staff entering the work of TIS. There has been a big turnover of staff in programs across the country and Victoria and Tasmania are no different.

Professor Tom spoke about TIS being in its final year of funding and expressed how important it is for the TIS program to continue; teams need to continue their work, delivering services and especially collecting data on changes occurring in smoking amongst community members. He also reminded teams how important it is for teams to increase their networking opportunities with other stakeholders.

Professor Tom said it was great to see that teams have been doing what they can to keep the community focus on smoking, going for example through social media and online activities

getting the quit message out using mediums such as radio, television and social media.

5. Looking Forward: Indigenous Smoking priorities and opportunities (Katherine McHugh, Child and Family Health Section, Department of Health)

Katherine updated participants on the TIS program from the perspective of the Department of Health, including on:

- how tobacco use is tracking against 'big picture' goals.
- the emerging priorities and policy context, including the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the draft National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-2031, the draft National Preventive Health Strategy, and the National Tobacco Strategy 2020-2030 (in development); and
- key priorities for TIS (demonstrating impact and maximising impact)

6. TIS Website Update (Ashleigh Parnell, Australian Indigenous Health Infonet)

Ashleigh presented a 'live tour' of the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Website, highlighting some of the newer pages (e.g. priority populations, team success stories). She reminded teams of the importance of getting resources shared to the Website. The relevance of the Yarning Page to supporting best practice was also stressed.

7. Impact Evaluation – TIS regional grants on smoking outcomes (Raglan Maddox PhD MPH)

This presentation was delivered by Raglan Maddox from the Australian National University (ANU) about the impact evaluation being conducted by the Australian National University of TIS regional grants on smoking outcomes. Raglan reported that Smoking rates are declining for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but there is still room for improvement. The ANU team is working with TIS teams to measure the impact of the TIS program on smoking rates, attitudes to smoking and exposure to smoking.

8. TIS Teams' Success Stories

Each TIS team was invited to brief the workshop about their approach to tackling smoking in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in which they live and serve about their successes and challenges. Presentations were made by the following teams:

- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACHHO)
- Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative (DDACL)
- Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
- Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI)

9. Wise Practices to address Vaping (Assoc Prof Penney Upton)

In response to requests from TIS Teams, Penney's presentation covered a range of issues about vaping / e-cigarettes, including:

- what are e-cigarettes?
- evidence that vaping is increasing in Australia

- emerging evidence to support population health promotion approaches to tackling vaping
- a summary of best practice approaches to tackling vaping (using similar methods and approaches to addressing tobacco use).

10. Cultural & Indigenous Research Centre Australia (CIRCA) (Lena Etuk, Manager, Director Research & Evaluation)

Lena of CIRCA reported on the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the TIS Program which will be released once approved by the Department of Health. The evaluation has looked at the implementation, appropriateness and outcomes of the TIS program, and has made a number of recommendations about how to further enhance the effectiveness of the TIS Program.

11. Workshop Wrap Up (Prof Tom Calma AO, National Coordinator TIS)

Professor Tom reflected on the workshop, thanking all participants and especially the TIS teams for their informative presentations. He also reminded teams that it was important for them to remember that TIS funding was there to enable them to carry out population health promotion activities, not individual level smoking cessation work.

There was further discussion around the use of TIS funds for staff development and training. In particular Professor Tom noted that funding smoking cessation training for clinical staff was not the remit of the TIS teams. Tom noted that it was appropriate for the teams to facilitate access for clinical teams (and other staff) to the Quitskills training which is provided free through the TIS program to increase capacity to support quit (KPI 3). However any other clinical skills training should be subsidized by primary health care funds; as described in Professor Tom's presentation a letter sent to successful RTCG recipient organisations at the start of the 2018 funding, reminded organisations that they should be able to provide evidence of how their primary health care funding (where provided by the Commonwealth) is being used to complement TIS activities as part of a larger mix of tobacco cessation interventions. Some teams were not satisfied with this approach. Unfortunately, time constraints did not allow full exploration and resolution of these matters.

Participant Evaluation

Each jurisdictional workshop includes participant evaluation, with both quantitative and qualitative feedback. This assists the NBPU TIS to ensure that future workshops are of most use to TIS teams.

As the workshop was run virtually, the link to the anonymous evaluation was shared with participants through the Zoom chat facility and via direct email. A total of 17 completed responses were received, noting that some organisations participated as a group and may have provided one survey response for the whole group.

Overall satisfaction with the workshop and presentations was good, with sessions generally rated as very useful or somewhat useful (see *Figure 1*).

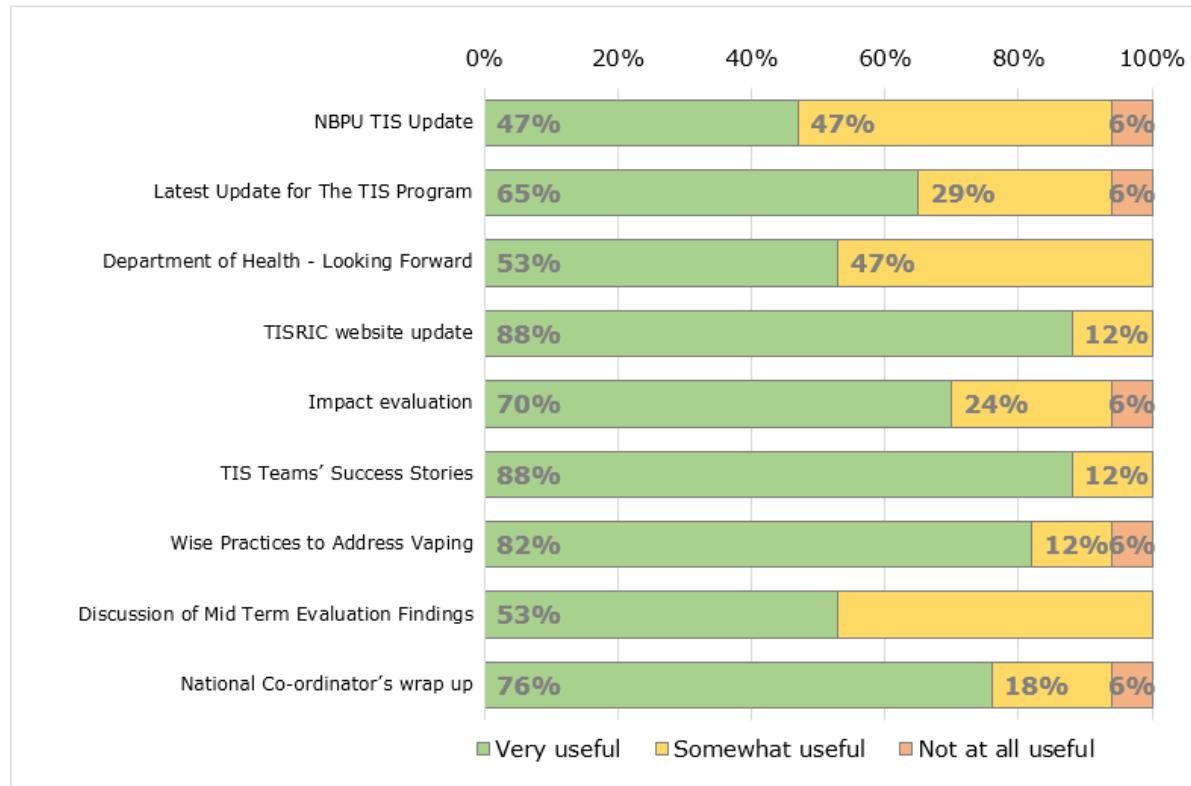


Figure 1: Participant evaluation of Victoria-Tasmania Jurisdictional Workshop, October 2021

One respondent, who rated the NBPU TIS update provided by the Unit manager as very useful, seemed to want further discussion with NBPU as they noted that:

There were some questions that needed to be clarified

The one respondent who rated this session as not at all useful commented that:

It felt like a Top-down approach

Feedback on the update on the TIS program provided by the National Coordinator was mixed, with some of the audience clearly appreciating the information presented:

He is an AMAZING ROLE MODEL

It was good to hear about TIS from his conversations with Ministers and the Department, but it seems to be a similar presentation to the last workshop, however I understand it would be beneficial to new staff.

There was one comment on the content of the Department of Health presentation, which suggested some frustration for teams regarding not having any clear indicator about the future of the program:

I feel like it would have been good to receive more detail around TIS. Now we are getting to the end of the funding period, it would have been nice to get some indication if there was going to be more funding and what that could/ would look like moving forward. There was a lot of detail around other priorities and health documents which is good to contextualize where TIS fits into the bigger picture but I feel it was perhaps a bit too broad?

Feedback on the TIS website update was very positive:

I regularly review the TIS website and promote it amongst new staff in particular, they also find it really useful. The links to evidence and journal articles are also really useful, and it's great to see what other TIS teams are doing. It was good to hear about some new features including the induction package for new staff which is really exciting. I would have loved to have had a longer session especially due to the fact there seem to be a lot of new faces in TIS

Ash is great

As was the feedback on the session on the Impact Evaluation:

It was great to hear Raglan's findings from the impact evaluation. The information was clearly presented and gave us some ideas around what else is working nationally for us to implement in the future.

He is amazing to listen to

As always, the sharing our stories sessions was generally very popular:

It's great to hear what other TIS teams are doing and what is working

More TIS team discussions

Very helpful to gain great ideas

However one person did provide feedback suggesting the updates were not seen as beneficial by all teams:

I don't find the updates very useful as it can take up a lot of time and each team is different for what they are doing, especially in covid times VIC is in locked down but Tas is out and about doing everything. There is no comparison and means teams can't really draw inspiration for activities from one another.

Participants gave positive feedback on the session addressing vaping, although it was evident they would have liked more time on this topic:

This session was so helpful! But it would have been great to have it as a longer session and perhaps with more opportunity to see what TIS teams are doing more in this space. However, I acknowledge due to time and the fact it was a shorter workshop, that this was not possible

Good reminder to organise info about vaping for the community

Info on vaping is always useful although I wish we had more time on this.

Regarding the CIRCA presentation, it was noted that it:

Would be good to workshop how we improve their suggestions³

³ This was included in other workshops in 2021, but not in the Victoria-Tasmania workshop because of the Zoom format and request from teams to keep the session short. However, the NBPU TIS will look at ways of integrating a more discursive format into future Zoom jurisdictional workshops, as do in our workforce development sessions.

Feedback on the workshop wrap up by the National Co-ordinator included positive feedback on the value of this session:

I feel like Professor Tom Calma's summary was really important, especially about ensuring TIS activities are aligning with the contract as he reinforced after hearing the presentations and getting his take on it. It would have been great to have more of a discussion around this but I know it already went overtime. Could we allocate more time for this at the next workshop?

However, the lack of time to fully explore and resolve the issues led some participants to comment:

I was left confused after the discussion at the end.

It caused confusion instead of clarity

I felt there wasn't enough time to allow for teams to get answers on funding questions

Overall, the workshop was well received by most participants, despite ending on a challenging note as these comments show:

Well, done on an informative and interesting session!

There were some fantastic presentations so thank you for organising this.

Suggestions for improving the workshop focused particularly on providing more time for discussion:

Less top down and more open discussion as a state

Needs to be longer, rushed, would have been good to identify good and bad programs and events to direct what we should be aiming for

would be good for more discussion within teams

Two respondents provided very constructive feedback on how this could be achieved for future online workshops:

I know there was feedback at this workshop that there wasn't enough time for discussion as previous workshop feedback showed everyone wanted a shorter workshop. I personally don't mind the duration of the workshop next time, but I think some discussion time would be important. Perhaps to assist this, all Coordinators could be asked to ask their teams about any questions they have or what they want to know- some of these can be used to start discussion and perhaps have a FAQ or Q&A session with Tom?

I would've liked more info around vapes etc but understand there was time constraints. If we were able to have a lunch break rather than a 5 minute stretch it may of worked better.

There was also suggestion that more clarity was needed on acceptable TIS activities:

I was also surprised to find that we should only be referring people to have smoking cessation training to quit-skills. If this is the case, I'm surprised we haven't heard more from quit-skills teams.

I think providing more clarity on what we can and can't do and guidance on how to do them

This may be something that NBPU TIS can discuss with the Department and the National Co-ordinator to provide clear guidance for teams, as it appears that for some teams the RTCGR contract and the National Indicators may not provide sufficient clarity.

Finally, we should all reflect on the impact which COVID-19 restrictions have had for the Victorian teams and their staff as highlighted by this final comment:

Lionel's roadshow has provided great insight into our lock-down lives.

ATTACHMENT A: Workshop Program

VIC & TAS TIS Jurisdictional Workshop Program

Tuesday 12 October 2021 9:00am- 1.30pm

ZOOM Meeting ID:
<https://nintione.zoom.us/j/98038187806?pwd=Y0ZBcEhXaGRHb2JhRXhpRTlrK01KZz09>



Duration		Facilitators/Speakers
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome and Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoom meeting workshop guidelines 	Damien House - Project Officer NBPU TIS
9:05 – 9:10	Acknowledgement of Country & Introductions	Damien House - Project Officer NBPU TIS
9:10 – 9:20	NBPU TIS Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest Update for the NBPU TIS 	Eileen Van Iersel - Manager NBPU TIS
9:20 – 9:50	National Co-ordinator's update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest Update for the TIS Program and Q&A 	Prof. Tom Calma AO National Coordinator - TIS
9:50 – 10:10	Department of Health update	Katherine McHugh – TIS Program Manager Department of Health
10:10 – 10:20	Stretch & Move break	
10:20 – 10:30	TISRIC Website update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National FB Yarning page 	Ashleigh Parnell - Research Officer Australian Indigenous Health Infonet
10:30 – 10:50	Impact Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIS Regional Grants on Smoking 	Dr Raglan Maddox PhD MPH Australian National University
10:50 – 11:10	Stretch & Move break	
11:10 – 12:25	RTCGR / TIS Team Shared Success Story (15 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACHHO) Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative (DDACL) Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA) Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI) 	Damien House - Project Officer NBPU TIS
12:25 – 12:35	Stretch & Move break	
12:35 – 12:55	Wise practices to address vaping	Assoc. Prof. Penney Upton
12:55 – 13:15	Cultural & Indigenous Research Centre Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latest Update 	Lena Etuk - Manager CIRCA
13:15 – 13:30	National Co-ordinator's wrap up	Prof. Tom Calma AO National Co-ordinator TIS
Workshop close		

Attachment B: Attendance

#	Name	Organization
1.	Tom Calma AO	National Coordinator Tackling Indigenous Smoking
2.	Prithimesh Sinha	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative (DDACL)
3.	Pushpa Austin	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative (DDACL)
4.	Venushi Dewundenge	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative (DDACL)
5.	Khristee Lade	Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI)
6.	Ty Ebdon	Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI)
7.	Buddy Gordon	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
8.	Damien Abbey	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
9.	Karen Maggs	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
10.	Rachel Clulow	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
11.	Sarah Stewart	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
12.	Terrick Mullett-Morris	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (LEAHA)
13.	Kehan Dyce	MDAS Mildura
14.	Belinda Donaldson	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACHHO)
15.	Dean O'Loughlin	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACHHO)
16.	Ken Brown	Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACHHO)
17.	Cailey Flaherty	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
18.	Cailey Flaherty	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
19.	Cerrin Karpany	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
20.	Ethan Penrith	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
21.	Lionel Austin	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
22.	Mary-anne Williams	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
23.	Michael Graham	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
24.	Candice Day	Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation
25.	Araj Haider	Department of Health
26.	Katherine McHugh	Department of Health
27.	Lena Etuk	CIRCA
28.	Ann Tobin	Community Grants Hub- Department of Social Services
29.	Liz Christie	Community Grants Hub, Department of Social Services
30.	Louise Cahill	Community Grants Hub, Department of Social Services
31.	Janannie Clough	Department of Health Victoria
32.	Melissa Boag	Department of Health, Tobacco Control
33.	Eliza Williams	Quitline QEP-Cancer Council
34.	Brad Garth-Smith	Quitline Tasmania
35.	Adam Casey	Victorian Department of Health

Attachment B: Attendance

#	Name	Organization
36.	John Baker	Victorian Department of Health
37.	Ashleigh Parnell	Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet
38.	Damien House	NBPU TIS
39.	Eileen Van Iersel	NBPU TIS
40.	Kelly Franklin	NBPU TIS
41.	Maxine Turner	NBPU TIS
42.	Scott McLennan	NBPU TIS
43.	Yvonne Buza	NBPU TIS