



## Bega Garnbirringu Health Service

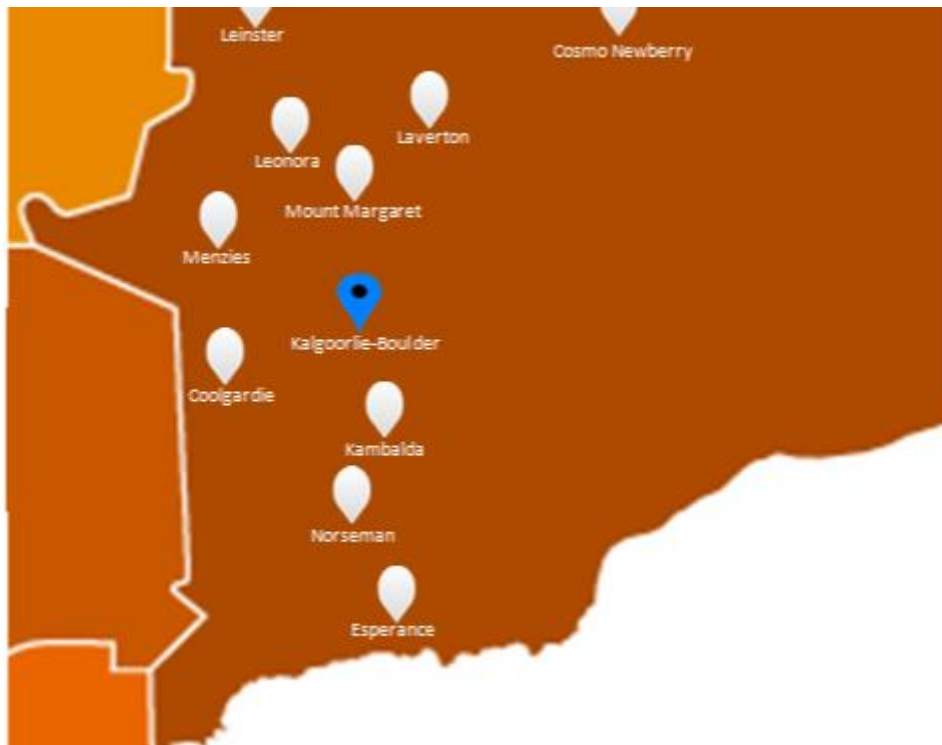
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This story was submitted to the National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) by Victor Smith, the Regional Tobacco Coordinator at Bega Garnbirringu Health Service. Many thanks to the Bega Garnbirringu Health Service TIS team for sharing their story.

### **What area do you service?**

Our TIS Team is based in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. We are a team of seven, including the coordinator. We cover a large area; heading south we go as far as Esperance (400kms away) and heading north we travel as far as Leinster and Cosmo Newberry (500kms).



### **Tell us about your success story**

On 22 July we headed up to Laverton, which is located 360kms north of Kalgoorlie, to attend their annual Aboriginal football carnival. The TIS team works closely with the football carnival organisers and the Aboriginal community of Laverton, which makes it easier for us to attend events being held by the community and hold TIS events in Laverton. The carnival was a huge success, with teams travelling from as far as the Warburton (550km) and Wanarn (700km) Aboriginal communities. Two teams couldn't make it as they had a COVID break out, but Laverton ended up beating Wanarn in the grand final in front of a crowd of around 200 spectators.

The TIS team had their marquee set up with all our no smoking educational items for the community members to come and have a look at. We also had group talks and one-on-one talks with the community members. What we wanted was for the community to get an understanding about the health effects and dangers of smoking tobacco. We also wanted to get involved with the community to build a relationship so we can come back and work with them on a regular basis. We provided a barbecue lunch and fresh fruit for the event, which was welcomed by the event organisers and the community members.



**Who was the activity designed to reach?**

Our target population was the Aboriginal community members of the Northern Goldfields and surrounding areas. Around 250 community members attended the event, where we counted 204 pass through our TIS marquee. For every person who comes to our TIS marquee and engages with us, we note down if they are male or female and Indigenous or non-Indigenous. We then take those notes back to our office and enter those details in Communicare [health software system]. We also use surveys we have created on SurveyMonkey to gather feedback.





### Summary and conclusion

Based on participation alone, the event was a huge success. We can see our message is getting out in the community by the youth we work with in Laverton and surrounding areas coming to our marquee and sitting with us, talking about what they learnt about the dangers of smoking from our previous visits to their town/community. The TIS team always talks to community Elders and workers from different services/agencies in the Northern Goldfields and we had heaps of feedback from the community members asking us to attend more of their events and telling us we are doing a good job. A couple of the community Elders want us to start a men's and women's no smoking program up in Laverton and we also gained a new partnership with the [Stephen Michael Foundation](#).

