



Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association

October 2022



This story was submitted to the National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) by Sarah Stewart, Healthy Lifestyle Team Leader at Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association. Many thanks to the Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association TIS team for sharing their story.

What area do you service?

We are based at Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association in eastern Victoria and we currently service all of Gippsland, from Mallacoota to Phillip Island.



Tell us about your success story

Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL) held their state-wide Junior Football & Netball Carnival in Bairnsdale, East Gippsland on Wednesday September 21 and Thursday September 22. Some of the organisations involved in supporting the huge two-day event (both with sponsorship as well as with assistance on the day) included Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association, Gippsland Djinbung Tackling Indigenous Smoking, Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) TIS team, Bairnsdale Regional Unlimited Sports (BRUS), Yoorok Team, Victoria Police, Gippsland Primary Health Network, Clontarf Academy, Treaty Engagement Team, Gunai Kurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).



Who was the activity designed to reach?

Obviously due to the event being a junior carnival we tried to target youth, but we also knew there would be community attending from all over Victoria, so it was a perfect opportunity to capture a large amount of survey data over the two days. We tried to attract youth with free giveaways for a quick online survey that included the ever-popular AirPods. We also had a large range of raffle prizes every participant went in the draw for after completing the survey. We managed to get 446 completed surveys in the two days, which was a mammoth effort by the team. From these survey results, 70% of participants didn't know what second-hand smoke is and 92% didn't know what third-hand smoke is.



Summary and conclusion

One of the main things we have learnt is that a lot more education and information is needed within the community around second- and third-hand smoke. Some of the lessons learnt, or things we would change moving forward for another state-wide carnival, would be to have more resources and hand-outs available, as we were quite overwhelmed with the amount of people seeking us out to complete a survey to receive the merchandise. We also would try and include more information within the packs we gave to community. We also wanted to utilise the Smokerlyzers at the carnival, but with up to 10-20 people at a time lining up to complete surveys, we just didn't have the staff or the time.

Overall, it was a hugely successful event, and we look forward to being involved in more carnivals in the future.

