Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Department Update

Kate Grlec & Katherine McHugh

National TIS CEOs Workshop

8 September 2026



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Acknowledgement

The Department acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land we are meeting on today. We also acknowledge the other Aboriginal peoples who have connections to the ACT and region.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this city and region. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples here today.

Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

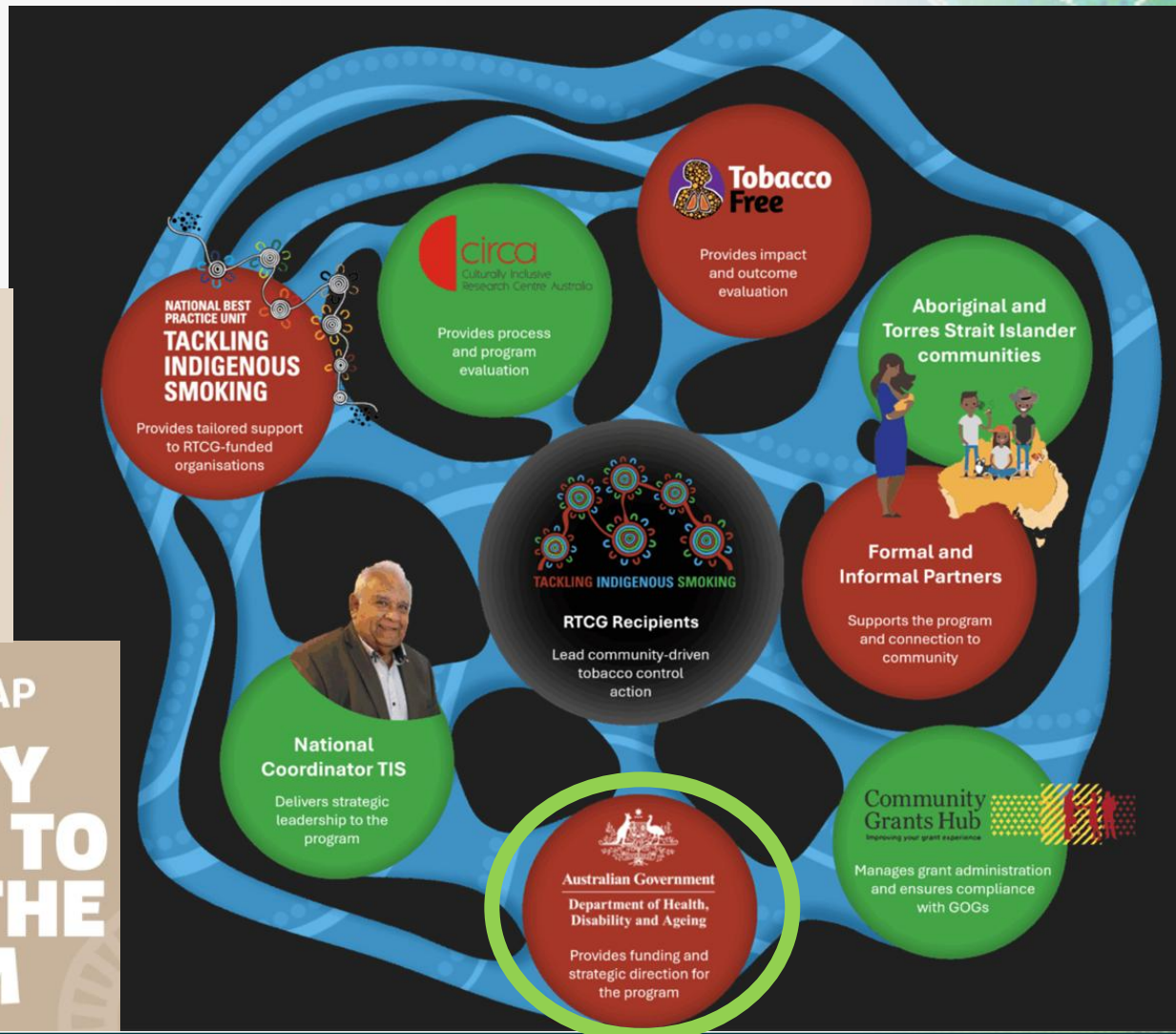






CLOSING THE GAP

PRIORITY REFORMS TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Budget 2023–24

Smoking cost $160 billion

Tackling smoking and vaping, and improving cancer outcomes

Total value of package

$737 million

$141.2m

Tackling Indigenous smoking (over 4 years)

TIS funding 2025-26

$60m indexed

Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Tackling smoking is still a priority



What:

- Reaching more people & communities
- Greater focus on prevention activities
- Preventing smoking/vaping uptake
- Reducing smoking/vaping rates

How:

- National network of TIS teams
- Working in Partnership
- Indigenous Leadership
- Best practice support
- Data, evidence & evaluation

Activities Guidance - Tackling In

tacklingsmoking.org.au/introduction-to-activities/

Australian Government
Department of Finance

APPROVED

TACKLING INDIGENOUS SMOKING

Current TIS Guidelines GO6775

Eligible and ineligible TIS activities

The table below outlines the eligible and ineligible grant activities for TIS teams as described in the *Tackling Indigenous Smoking Regional Tobacco Control Grants (2023-24 to 2026-27) Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GO6775)*. You can read the previous version of the guidelines here: *Indigenous Australians' Health Programme Tackling Indigenous Smoking Regional Tobacco Control Grants (2023-24 to 2025-26) Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GO5803)*. For examples of these activities and how to monitor and evaluate them please download this factsheet.

Daily Smoking Rates 2022-23



29%

71%

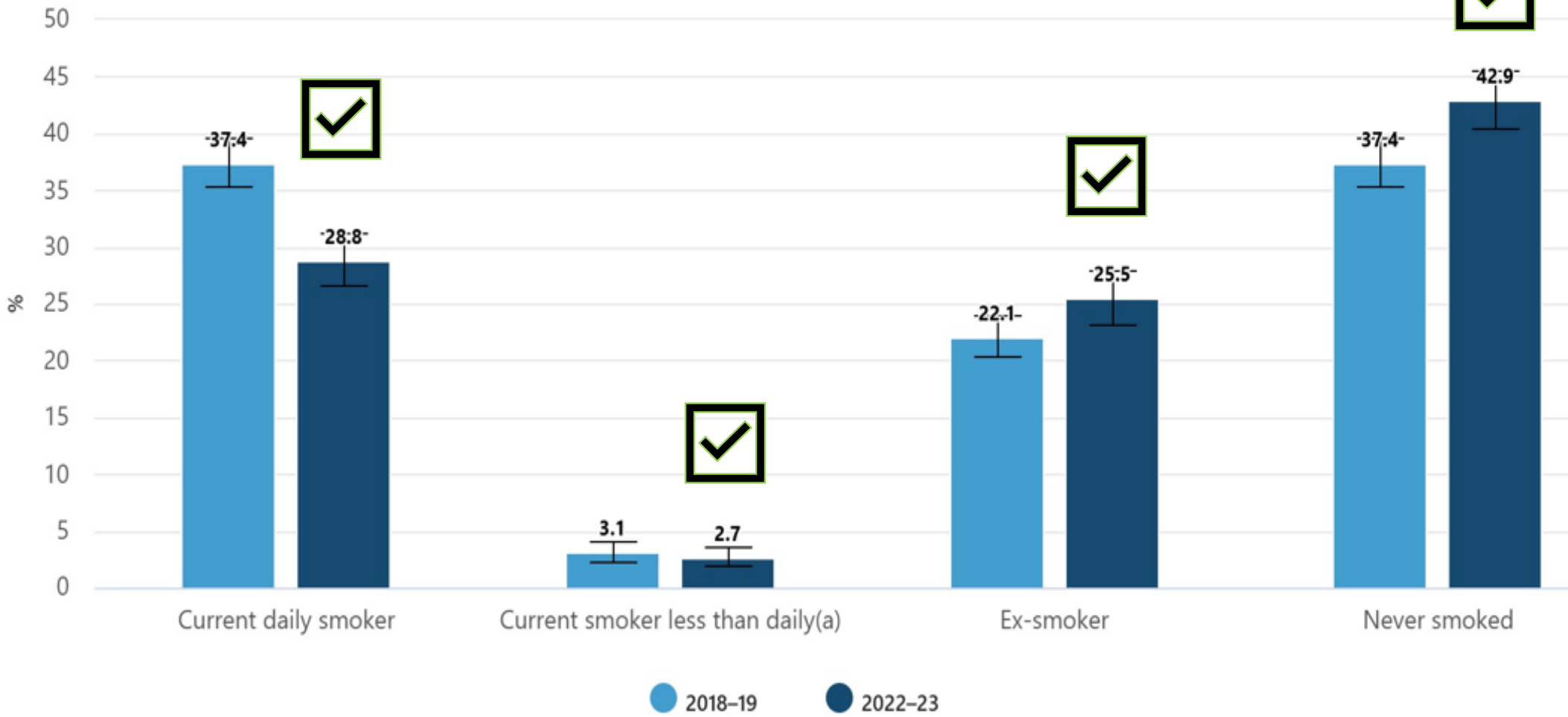


That's 2% less daily smokers per year



2030 Target
27% or Less

Proportion of people aged 15 years and over by smoker status, 2018–19 and 2022–23



a. The difference between 2018–19 and 2022–23 is not statistically significant.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2022-23 financial year

Winning Formulas for FAILURE!



FORGET
ABOUT
THE DATA

Winning Formula for TIS

Independent National Evaluations

Evaluation of the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program – National Reach & Priority Projects

Evaluation of the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program 2023-24 to 2026-27

Commonwealth evaluation policy

Promoting effective and informed use of evaluation to deliver outcomes

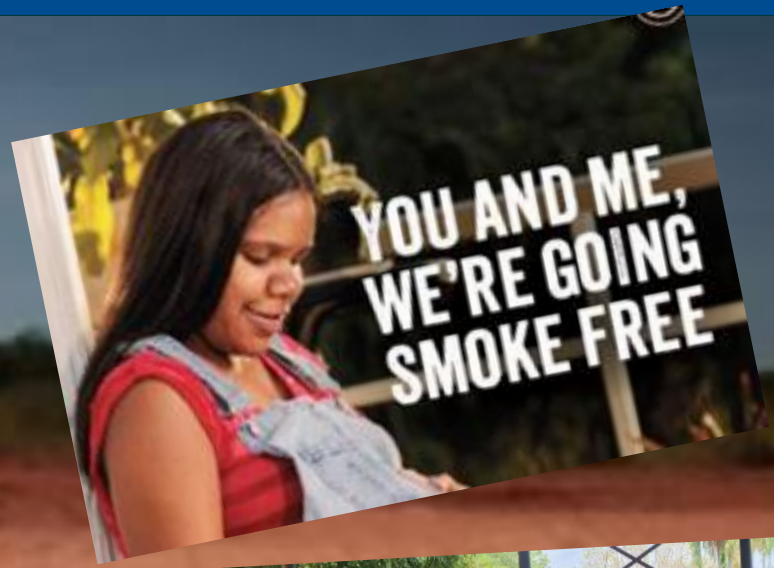




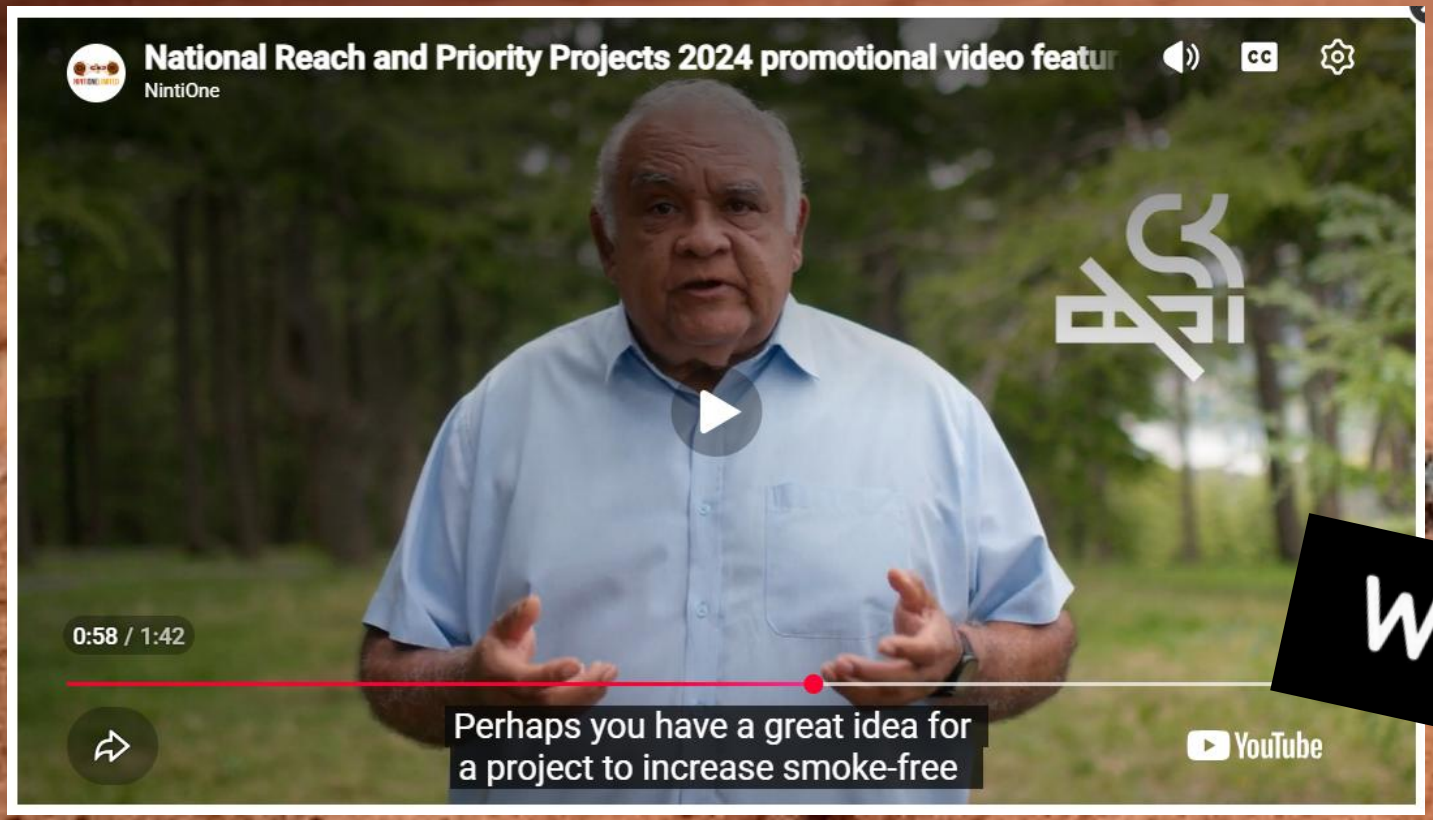
Tackling Indigenous Smoking program impact and outcome evaluation

NATIONAL REACH AND PRIORITY PROJECTS

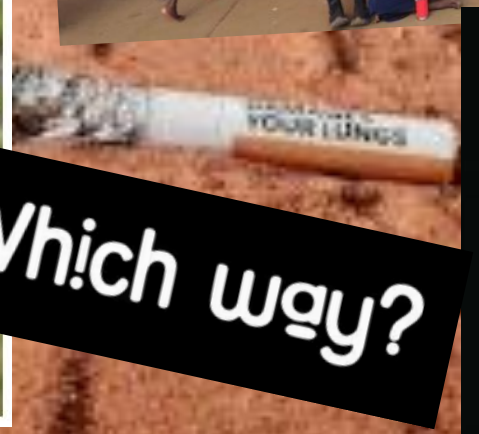














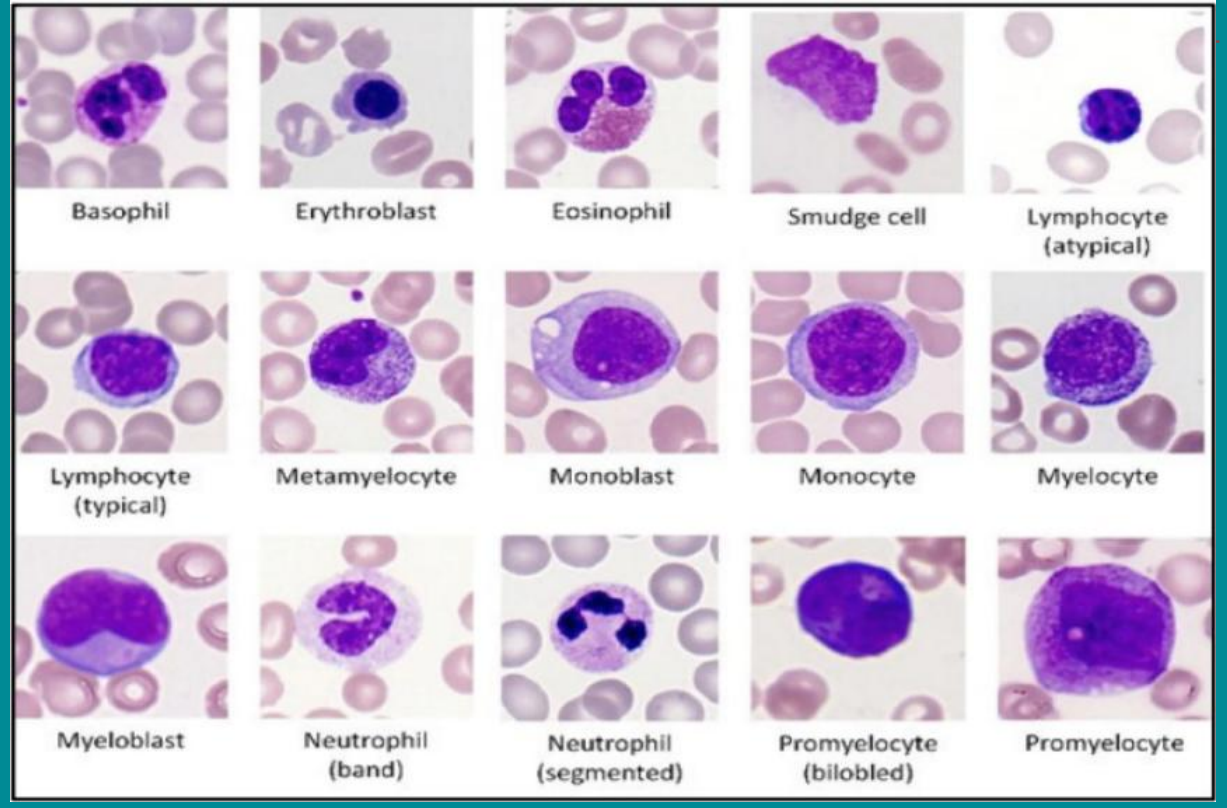
Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing



Tobacco & E-Cigarette Control Branch

Population Health Division





Kate Grlec
Acting Assistant Secretary

Tobacco and E-Cigarette Control Branch

OFFICIAL



TECB … What we do

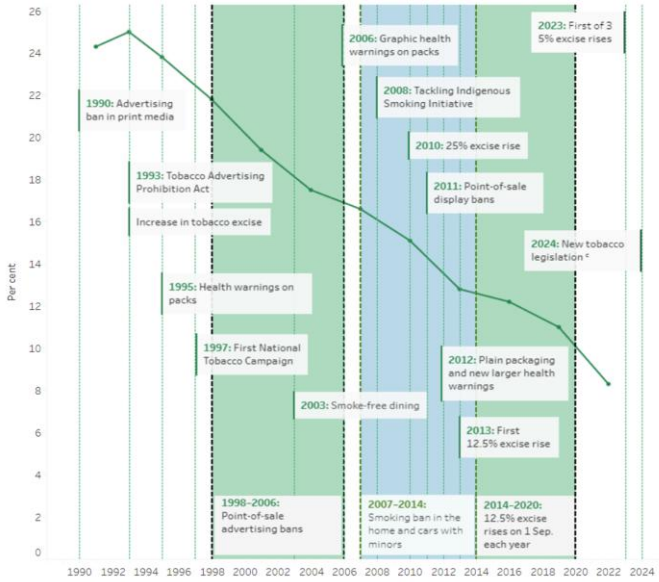




FCTC
WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

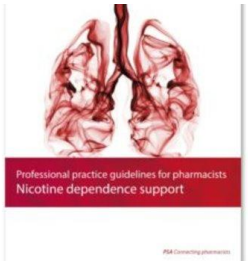


Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care
Therapeutic Goods Administration



Tobacco Act Compliance Strategy





TACKLING INDIGENOUS SMOKING



Australian Government
Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner

Australian National University
VAPING REFORMS MONITORING AND EVALUATION



Quitline 137848

My QuitBuddy

National Tobacco Strategy Working Group (NTSWG)

Quit









National Retail Licensing Framework for Tobacco

Illicit Tobacco Compliance and Enforcement Uplift FFA

Reducing demand for tobacco and nicotine products

Protection from exposure to smoke



Education and awareness

TACKLING INDIGENOUS SMOKING



Advertising bans, regulation of packaging, labelling and contents



Policies on prices and taxes

$

Quit support services

Quit

Quitline 137848

My QuitBuddy

Changes from 1 July 2025

Tobacco products will:

Taste and feel different

Some things that mask the harshness of tobacco will be banned, including some ingredients, flavours (including menthol, rum and clove), and accessories.

Be consistent in shape and filter

Each cigarette stick will be the same length and width, and unique filters will be banned.

Have different names

Words like 'smooth' and names like 'gold' that can falsely suggest some products are less harmful will be removed.

Have new health information

There will be new health warnings and information cards to help people quit on and inside the packaging.

Be consistent in size

Each cigarette pack will have 20 sticks. Roll-your-own pouches will have 30 grams of tobacco.





National Public Health Campaigns









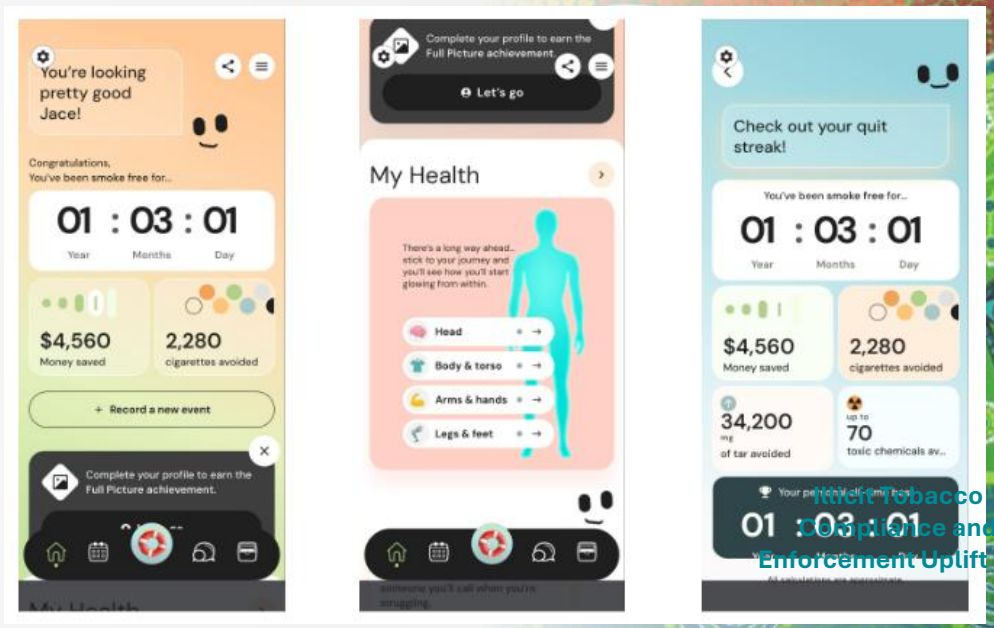
National Cessation Programs

Quitline 137848

Quit®

My QuitBuddy





~ 170k new users

Illicit Tobacco Compliance and Enforcement Uplift FFA

Latest Prevalence Results 2025
Smoking and E-cigarettes

https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/behaviours-risk-factors/smoking/overview

Australian Government
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AIHW

About our data | Reports & data

Home > Reports & data > Behaviours & risk factors > Smoking and e-cigarettes

Smoking and e-cigarettes

About **5.6%** of people in Australia smoked tobacco daily in 2025, down from 8.3% in 2022–2023 >



About **3.6%** of people in Australia used e-cigarettes daily in 2025, stable from 3.5% in 2022–2023 >



Update to Australia's nicotine pouch regulations

- The Australian Government has recently **strengthened regulatory controls** on nicotine pouches.
- This is in response to increasing concerns about:
  - rapid **growth** in their **unlawful importation, advertising and supply** in Australia
  - potential negative impact on public health.

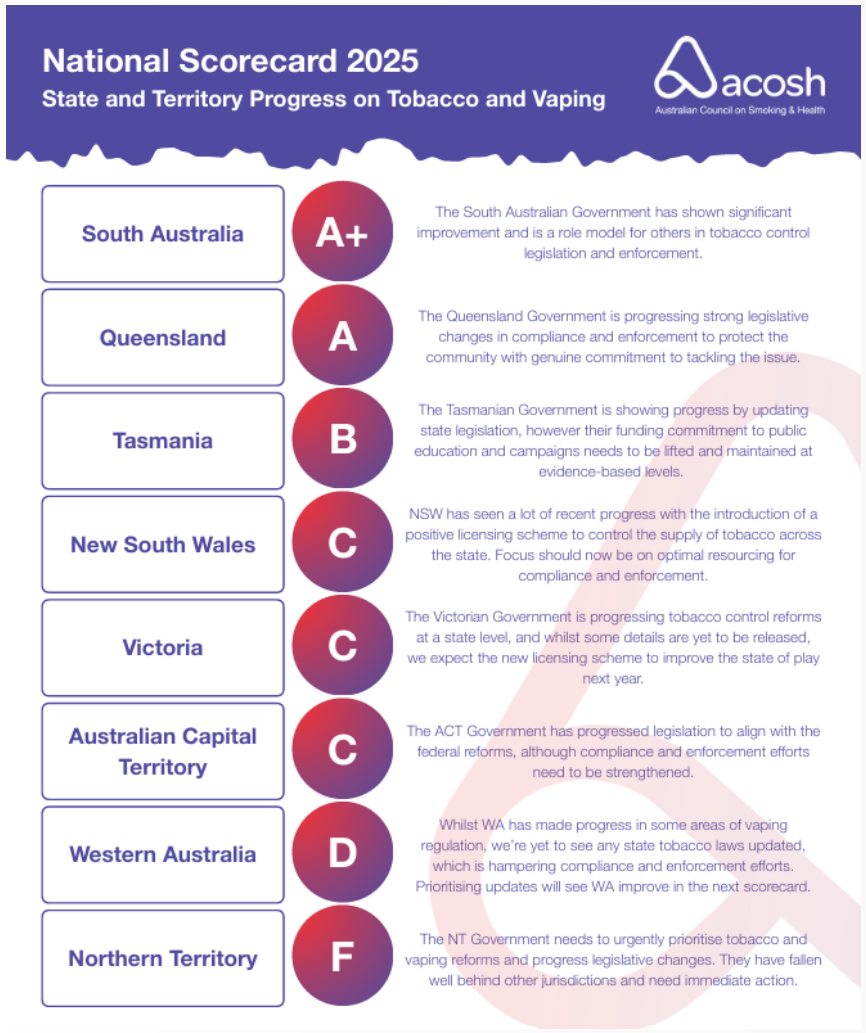


From 24 July 2026:

- Individuals are no longer able to buy or import nicotine pouches in Australia.
- If a company wants to sell a nicotine pouch product in Australia, it must first demonstrate the product is safe and effective and meets regulatory standards.

Nicotine pouches pose a growing public health concern, particularly for younger people. Use during adolescence can affect brain development and increase the risk of long-term dependence.

Future options for tobacco control







Thank you

IndigenousTobacco@health.gov.au

Tobacco.Control@health.gov.au

