

Development of indicators and quality improvement tools for tobacco control programs in Indigenous communities

Aim

To develop quality indicators and audit tools for a comprehensive tobacco control program for use in a range of health care services and related organisations.

Overview

Background: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have some of Australia's highest rates of tobacco consumption, which is directly correlated to a range of chronic health conditions. Targeted tobacco control programs are beginning to cut smoking rates among Indigenous people but there is an ongoing need to develop tools to support these interventions. Much of this work has been led by researchers at the Menzies School of Health Research who, with funding from the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NT Division), have developed a tobacco control audit tool and an associated protocol.

Project description: The quality indicators and associated audit tool, protocol and tally sheets were developed in consultation with staff of the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NT Division), Northern Territory Department of Health, Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT, Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales and Charles Darwin University. The project was completed in Year 2 of the CRE-IQI.

Outputs

The main outputs of this project have been:

- + The tobacco control audit tool, the associated protocol and tally sheets.
- + An e-learning module (available on One21seventy project page at www.menzies.edu.au).

Key messages

The tool is designed to audit all aspects needed for a comprehensive tobacco control program, including:

- + Clinical tobacco control activities for individual clients.
- + Health promotion activities.
- + Systems to support tobacco control programs.

The use of the tool should assist organisations to re-orient their systems and services towards evidence-based tobacco control practices and policies, and so expand the reach of high-quality tobacco control programs.

This work may also contribute to the development and piloting of non-clinical indicators in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care.

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| <i>Project status</i> | Completed |
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| <i>Dates</i> | 2015 – May 2016 |
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