

Top End Tobacco Project

NHMRC Project Grant 436012 (2007 – 2011)



Newsletter 7

June 2009

PROJECT TEAM



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Aim:

To reduce tobacco smoking in three remote Aboriginal communities plus several homelands in the Top End of the Northern Territory over a five year period (2007 - 2011).

Strategies:

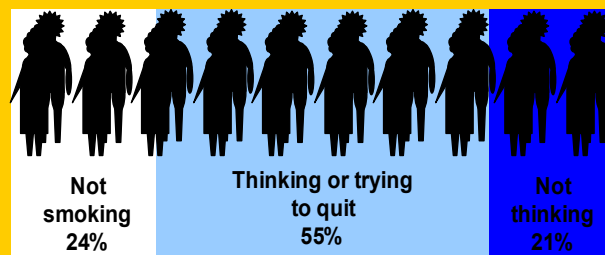
- Baseline and follow-up surveys of tobacco use in each community with follow-up .
- Ongoing measurement of tobacco sales.
- Support for community-developed activities to reduce tobacco use.
- Improve access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy.
- Employment of local research workers.
- Provision of regular feedback to each community and key stakeholders

Project Progress:

- Base line survey completed with April 2009 (400 interviews)
- Feedback of survey results completed in two communities
- Development of tobacco resources in local language
- Implementation of locally-developed and driven strategies in two communities is underway and planning in third
- Collaboration with community groups, service providers and local co-workers has continued.
- Training of local Health and Community Workers in brief interventions in tobacco; provision of quit support and use of health promotion tools including an expired carbon monoxide monitor ('Smokerlyzer')

Top End Tobacco Project 2008 Baseline Survey

400 Survey Participants



Smokers

Baseline Survey Data

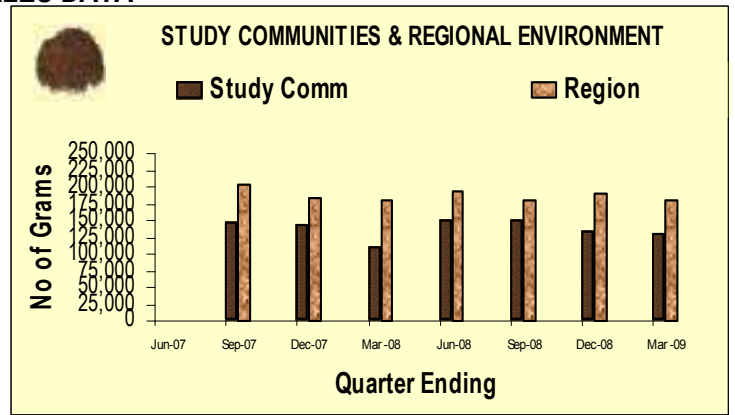
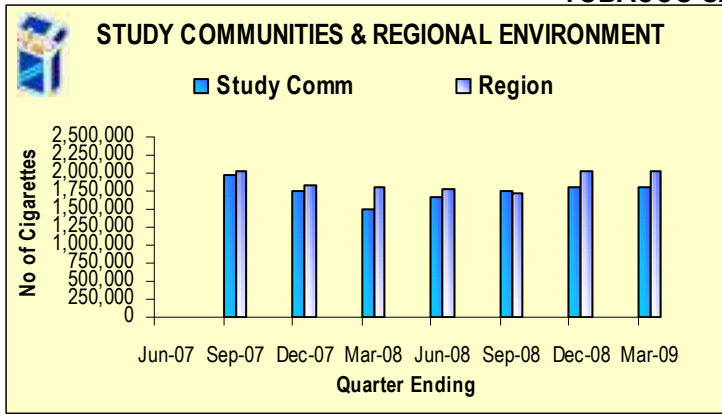


Co-presenting the feedback with local community members



Translation of survey results feedback in local language including electronic copies and voice translation.

TOBACCO SALES DATA



The above graphs show quarterly tobacco sales (cigarettes and loose tobacco) in the three study communities and other communities in the region.

Health Worker Training

Learning outcomes include an understanding of nicotine addiction and how to incorporate learnings into current practice. Ongoing follow-up and support is provided to training participants.



Supporting local ideas



Quit competitions between local sporting teams participating in Sport and Recreation activities are being supported by the project. Individuals and teams are being supported to cut down or quit smoking. Ian Thorpe's Fountain for Youth is providing financial support so that sporting teams with members who quit smoking are rewarded with new team uniforms. Team members regularly breath into a 'Smokerlyzer' to confirmed they have quit smoking and remain smoke-free. After an initial quit competition between men's basketball teams the initiative has extended to include the women's basketball and men's AFL teams.

Galiwin'ku Health Workers attend 10th National Rural Health Alliance Conference

Senior Health Workers Stephanie Dhamarrandji and Wanamula Gondarra were sponsored by JCU to attend the 10th National Rural Health Alliance Conference in Cairns, May 2009. Both ladies have been major contributors to the project and were able to share these experiences with conference attendees through a poster presentation. The ladies also attended a domestic violence day held at WuChopperen Health Service and spoke to the Health Workers and others



Wanamula and Stephanie sharing stories with conference delegates

Family day at WuChopperen Health Service



Wanamula and Stephanie with a WuChopperen Family Support worker

NEXT.....

- Complete feed-back of survey results
- Continue to support community driven strategies
- Prepare for follow up survey to commence in 2010