

Top End Tobacco Project



NHMRC Project Grant 436012 (2007 – 2011)

Newsletter 4

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Project Staff



Jan Robertson Alan Clough Anil Raichur David MacLaren

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 interviews of tobacco use in each community with follow-up after activities to reduce tobacco use.
- 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.



Talking about tobacco



Local co-workers

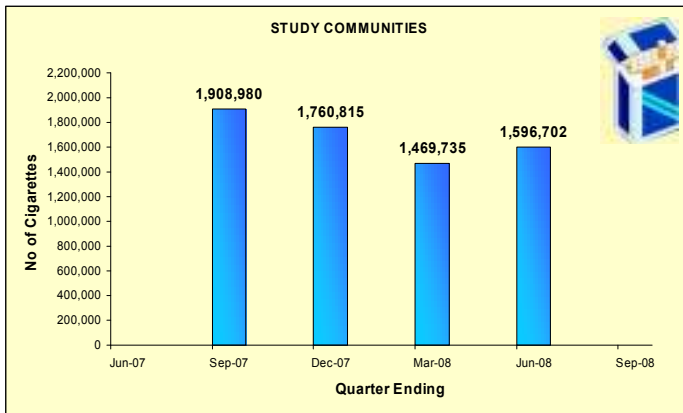
Project Progress:

- More than 250 baseline interviews conducted in two communities from April to July 2008.
- Extra impetus given to surveys collaborating with community groups, service providers and local co-workers
- A 'Smokerlyzer' was used to confirm smoking status.
- Initial feedback of survey results in the first community in August resulted in formation of a local Tobacco Action Group and community members recommending a local Tobacco Worker in their community.
- 12 months of tobacco information from retailers has been collected in each community
- NRT trialed in one workplace setting

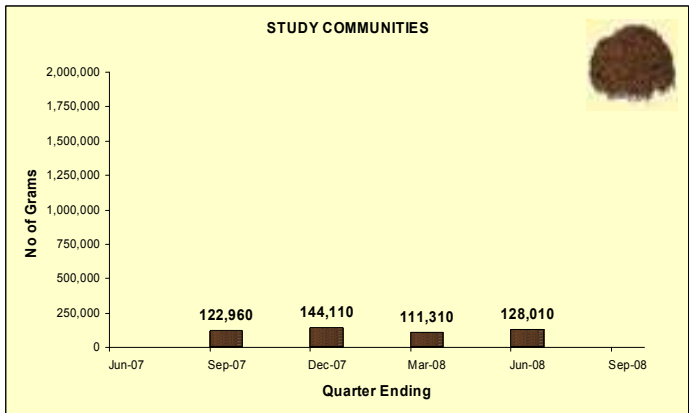


NRT information session

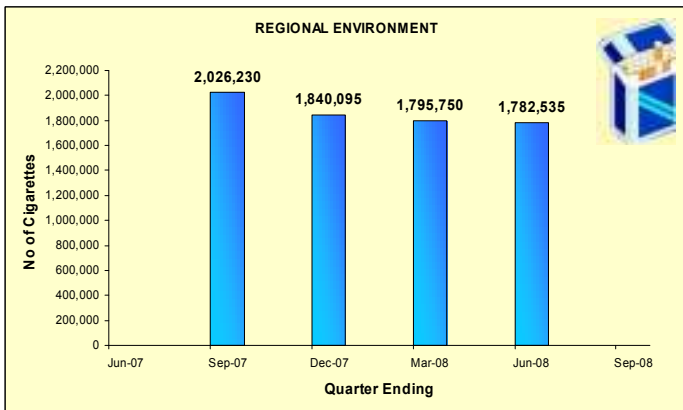
QUARTERLY TOBACCO USE



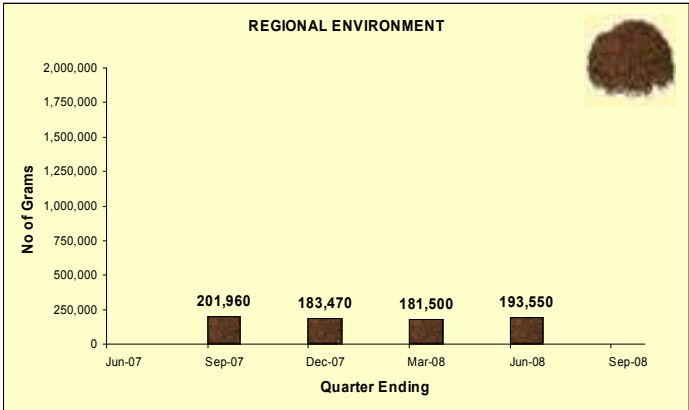
Cigarettes



Loose Tobacco (Pouch & Tins)



Cigarettes



Loose Tobacco (Pouch & Tins)

Study findings to date:

- Rates of smoking remain as high as found in previous studies indicating around 2/3 populations surveyed are currently using tobacco
- Like tobacco smokers everywhere the majority want to quit and some are actively trying
- Communities are expressing urgent need for quit support
- Range of styles, histories and management of tobacco use which is peculiar to each community

NEXT.....

Project staff will visit communities Oct - Dec 2008

With local co-workers they will:

- Plan to commence baseline survey in third community in early 2009.
- Negotiate the best way to feedback survey results in second community.

- Feedback results in first community on a clan by clan basis as advised by community leaders.
- Engage with community groups to further develop approaches to address tobacco issues.
- Train health staff and community members to provide support for people who want to change their tobacco use.



Mix of tobacco and ash for chewing

For more information contact: Jan Robertson

Phone: 07 40421635 Fax: 07 40421675

Email: Jan.Robertson@jcu.edu.au

James Cook University, School of Public Health, PO Box 6811, Cairns QLD 4870