

# Top End Tobacco Project



NHMRC Project Grant 436012 (2007 – 2011)

Newsletter 5

November 2008

## Project Staff



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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 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.



Baseline survey conducted with local co-workers

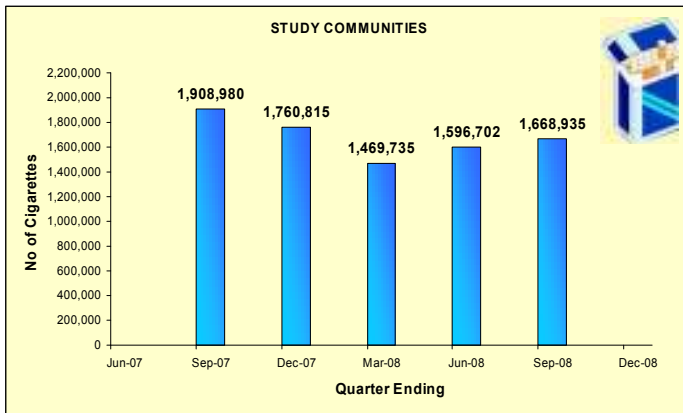
## Project Progress:

- Baseline surveys completed in one community in July, completed in the second community in October and commenced in the third community in September.
- More than 300 baseline interviews were conducted in the three communities from April to Oct 2008.
- Extra impetus given to the surveys because of collaboration with community groups, service providers and local co-workers
- Local co-workers are trained in using the 'Smokerlyzer' to confirm smoking status.
- Initial feedback of survey results in one community resulted in the formation of a local Tobacco Action Group.
- Working with community groups to present survey data in relevant way for family/clan groups
- 5 quarters of tobacco information from retailers has been collected allowing trends to be analysed.
- NRT trialed in a workplace setting

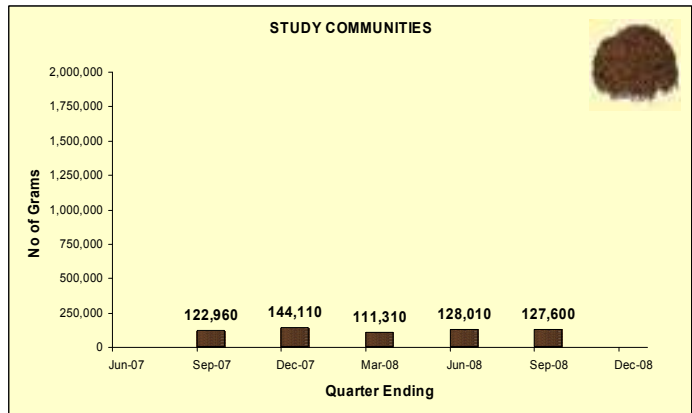


Feedback of baseline survey to key community stakeholders

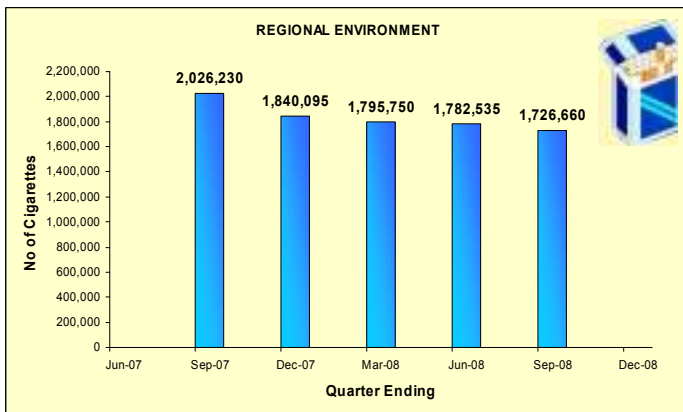
## QUARTERLY TOBACCO USE



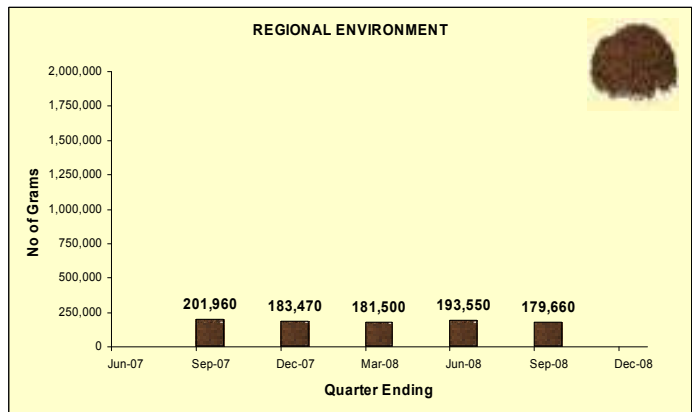
**Cigarettes**



**Loose Tobacco (Pouch & Tins)**



**Cigarettes**



**Loose Tobacco (Pouch & Tins)**



Tobacco meeting with local workers

### Study findings to date:

- Around 2/3 of people interviewed currently use tobacco. Smoking rates vary across gender and age groups
- Proportion of cigarettes used and loose tobacco used varies across communities
- Like tobacco smokers everywhere the majority of smokers want to quit and some are actively trying

- Communities express an urgent need for quit support

### NEXT.....

Project staff will visit communities in Nov and Dec 2008  
With local co-workers they will:

- Meet with Tobacco Action Group in first community.
- Feedback results in clan groups as advised by community leaders in first community
- Plan best way to feedback results with second community.
- Further develop approaches to address tobacco issues with community groups.
- Train health staff and community members to provide support for people who want to change their tobacco use.
- Continue baseline survey in third community.

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