

Top End Tobacco Project



NHMRC Project Grant 436012

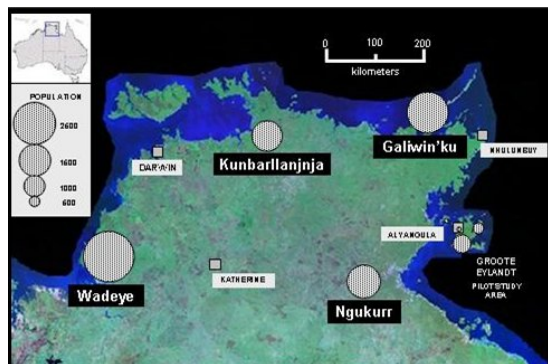
Newsletter 1

December 2007

Project Team



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Study communities

Project Aims:

To implement a multiple component, community-action intervention to reduce tobacco smoking in remote Aboriginal communities over five years.

Evaluation will include:

- self-reported tobacco use measured at baseline and smoking status followed up on 2 occasions
- tobacco sales monitored in each community for duration of project



Intervention Strategies:

- Engage whole community
- Employ local research assistants
- Provide tobacco cessation training for clinic workers
- Develop locally appropriate health promotion resources and strategies
- Improve access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy



Nicotine Replacement gum, lozenges and patch

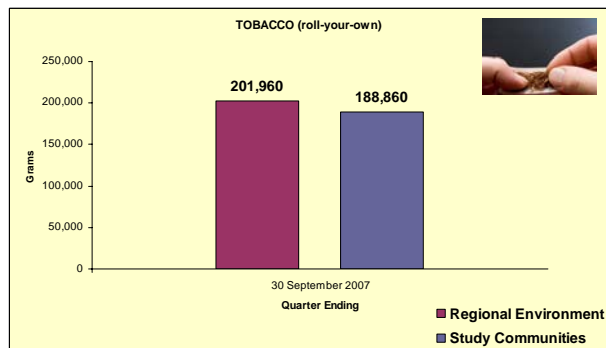
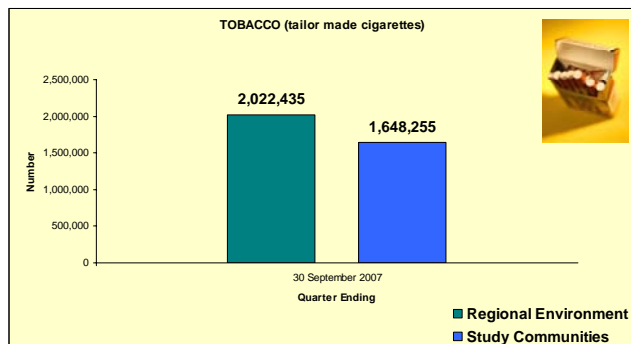


Visiting Homelands



School mural

Quarterly Tobacco Sales: Study Communities & Regional Environment



PROJECT PROGRESS

Community Engagement:

- Visited Galiwin'ku, Ngukurr and Kunbarllanjnja communities twice.
- Wadeye has postponed its decision to participate.
- Formal support received from councils.
- Support of local health services, women's centres, stores, schools and other community agencies.
- Some homelands/outstations want to participate.
- Local endorsement of project team's wide community engagement to date.
- Involved local linguists to assist with project naming and identification of key concepts.

Data collection:

- Monthly data from 6 tobacco retail outlets in 3 communities. Fourth community ready to provide relevant data.
- Tobacco sales data from other stores in the region have been obtained for comparison.
- Community lists received from local government & health services for selecting people for interview.

PROJECT PROCESS (cont)

Issues identified:

- Need to overcome discouragement or shame due to first relapse in smokers trying to quit.
- Address community concerns regarding passive smoking by children.
- Increase awareness of harmful effects of smoking other than respiratory disease.
- Lack of resources appropriate to each community (ie local languages, literacy level).
- Chewing of tobacco (particularly by women).



Source: Queensland Health Smokecheck

NEXT.....

- Provide feedback to communities and other stakeholders of project progress.
- Commence baseline interviews in communities beginning February/March 2008.
- Prepare for intervention launches in each community at staged intervals commencing June 2008

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