

20 November 2013

Community grants available for Aboriginal quit smoking activities

The *Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project* is calling for applications for a new round of community grants to help address smoking in local communities.

South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) Health Promotion Service Acting Director Mandy Williams said the grants provided an opportunity for organisations to find new ways to reduce smoking rates in Aboriginal communities.

“The project recognises that local community organisations, groups and workers have strong connections within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and we hope that they will apply for the community grants,” Ms Williams said.

“We know people want to quit. A survey of 685 community members found that 71.5 per cent were seriously considering or had decided to quit smoking in the next six months.

“The first round of grants were very popular and through these we have seen some great local initiatives and activities being undertaken in the community.

“One group used their grant to purchase a carbon monoxide reader to help clients quit smoking and another group developed artwork to educate women about the negative impact of smoking on their health and the health of their children,” she said.

A total pool of \$20,000 is available, with applicants able to request up to \$2000 (including GST) for community activities or resources that help support the aims of the Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project.

Aboriginal agencies, Aboriginal community organisations, community groups or other organisations providing services for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people within south western Sydney are encouraged to apply.

The Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project was launched in October 2011. The project was designed with input from local residents and Aboriginal organisations.

Applications from government organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within south western Sydney will also be accepted.

For further details about the community grants scheme and to obtain an application kit, please contact Wendy on (02) 4640 3537. Closing date for applications is 5pm Monday 2 December

About the Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project

The *Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project* is a partnership project of the Aboriginal Medical Service Redfern, Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Babana Aboriginal Men's Group and the Health Promotion Service (HPS) and Aboriginal Health Units for South Western Sydney and Sydney Local Health Districts. The project aims to reduce smoking prevalence in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population residing in south west Sydney and Sydney's inner west by five per cent. For more information visit www.iquitbecause.org.au