Tuesday 19 November, 2013

Applications open for grants to help Aborigines quit smoking

The Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project is calling for applications for community grants valued at up to $20,000 to help reduce smoking rates in local communities.

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

“The partnership project recognises that local community organisations, groups and workers have strong connections within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and encourage them to apply for the 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 in 2013 was very popular and through these we have seen some great local initiatives and activities being undertaken in the community,” she said.

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

“If you are an Aboriginal controlled agency, Aboriginal community organisation, community group or other organisation providing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within South Western Sydney and Sydney’s Inner West, the project team encourages you to apply for funding,” Ms Williams said.

The Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project was launched in October 2011. It has run three phases of advertising along with local activities with quit messages for the community. The project was designed with input from local residents and Aboriginal organisations.

“Learning and hearing from other people’s stories can inspire and help others to make a quit attempt,” Ms Williams said.

Applications from government organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within South Western Sydney and Sydney’s Inner West 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 Western Sydney and Sydney's Inner West by 5 per cent.

To find out more about the *Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project*, visit the campaign website – [www.iquitbecause.org.au](http://www.iquitbecause.org.au)