

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Promote smoke-free messages at Indigenous sporting and cultural events

Indigenous communities and organisations across Southern Queensland are being encouraged to apply for Queensland Health funding to promote smoke-free messages.

The Event Support Program is designed to raise awareness of smoking and passive smoking issues in Indigenous communities, and promote a positive attitude towards prevention.

Queensland Health project officer Karen Badcock said tobacco smoking is the single most important risk factor responsible for the greatest burden of disease in Australia and the leading cause of drug-related preventable deaths.

"This is of particular concern in Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities where more than half of the Indigenous adults reported smoking compared to less than one quarter of the general adult population."

"Our Event Support Program enables Indigenous communities and groups to promote the smoke-free messages, of 'Smoking: It can cost us the game' and 'Tobacco: It could cost us our culture', within their local Indigenous sporting carnivals, recreational events, arts, dance and cultural festivals, including NAIDOC Week celebrations," she said.

For example, in 2006/07 more than 15 events received funding, including the 11th National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games in Brisbane, NAIDOC Week celebrations in Cunnamulla and Toowoomba, 'Pathways – Past, Present and Future' at Murgon State High School, Emu Fest in Murra Murra via Cunnamulla, Black on Track Program in Roma, Quandamooka Camp on North Stradbroke Island and the Indigenous rugby youth development program in Ipswich.

Funding of up to \$5,000 is available to eligible organisations. For more information contact the Event Support Program project officer for Southern Queensland, Karen Badcock on (07) 4631 9820.

Ends

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Photo caption



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students take a break at the 11th National Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Games. The event was sponsored by Queensland Health's Event Support Program.