

## Abstract

munu jarngu – No Smokes ; Hedland Smoke free Kids

While the rest of Aboriginal Australia has much disparity with rates of tobacco consumption and related ill effects, what is seen very clearly is that mainstream approaches to curb this trend is not working. Family is the 'working unit' and structure for Aboriginal people, as is the ability to make changes with culturally guided support and encouragement. In the Pilbara smoking rates are more than twice that of non-Aboriginal residents, for every child it equates to one out of every two people in their families smoking, if not more. Munu jarngu goes across the three sectors within the community which is: Families; Wider community: Organisations and service providers – and it is having an impact, people are talking about it.

With family backing and intervention we can do more than education, we can create a structure of support around those 50% of Aboriginal people who don't smoke and we can also support the 50% who do; to try to minimize the harmful effects on our next generations and family life. The time is right to have an impact with State and National policies banning tobacco consumption in public spaces and the development of campaigns now being targeted to Aboriginal and other marginalised groups within Australia.

Using a child and family based approach that is about reward and incentives is not unlike what already exists for people around immunization and other national based programmes'. This research has been developed and implemented by Aboriginal people.

Maybe it is time we paid people to be healthy, stay health, start healthy....

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