



Indigenous tobacco control in Australia, current approaches, evidence and direction

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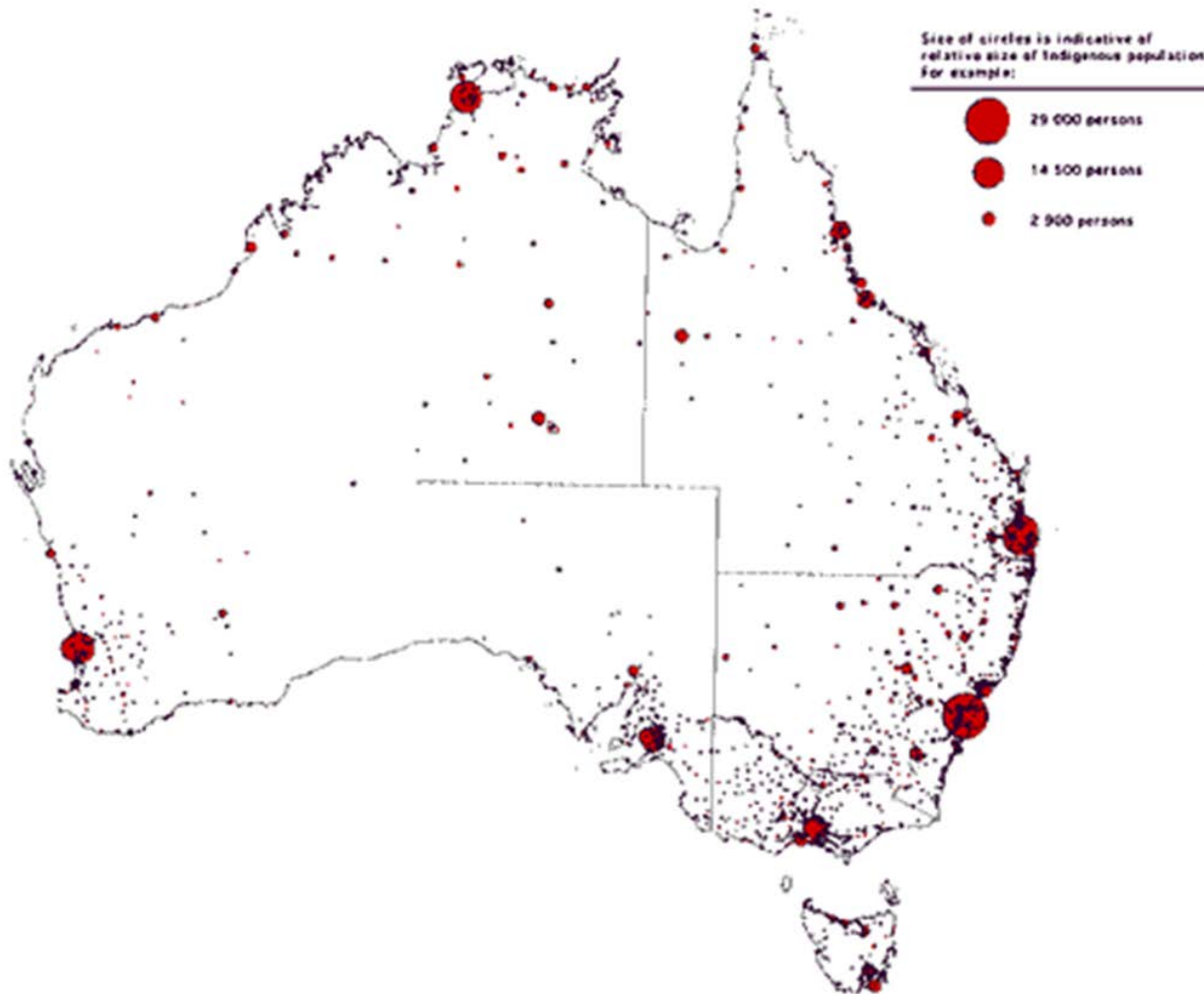
The Australian National University

About: <https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/lovett-rw>

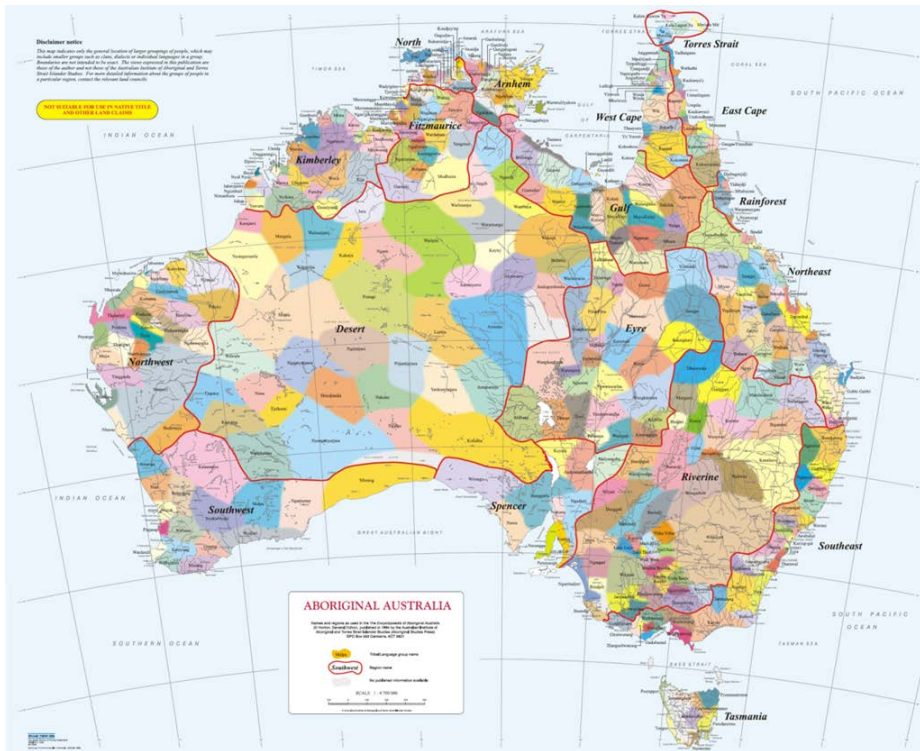
Outline

- Current population distribution and differences
- Current situation and trends
- Policy and programme developments
- What works in this space?

Where do Indigenous people live?

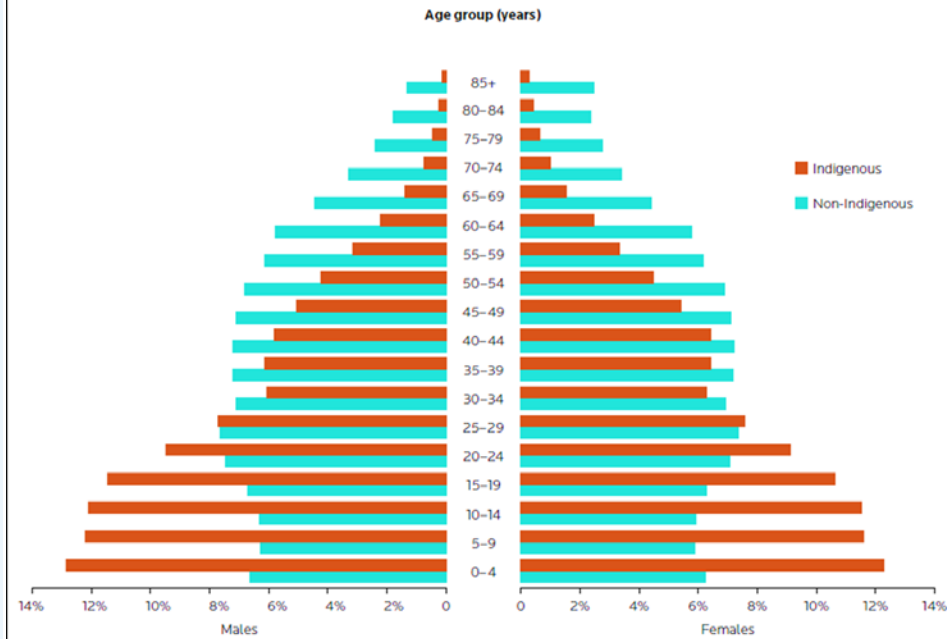


Diversity of population



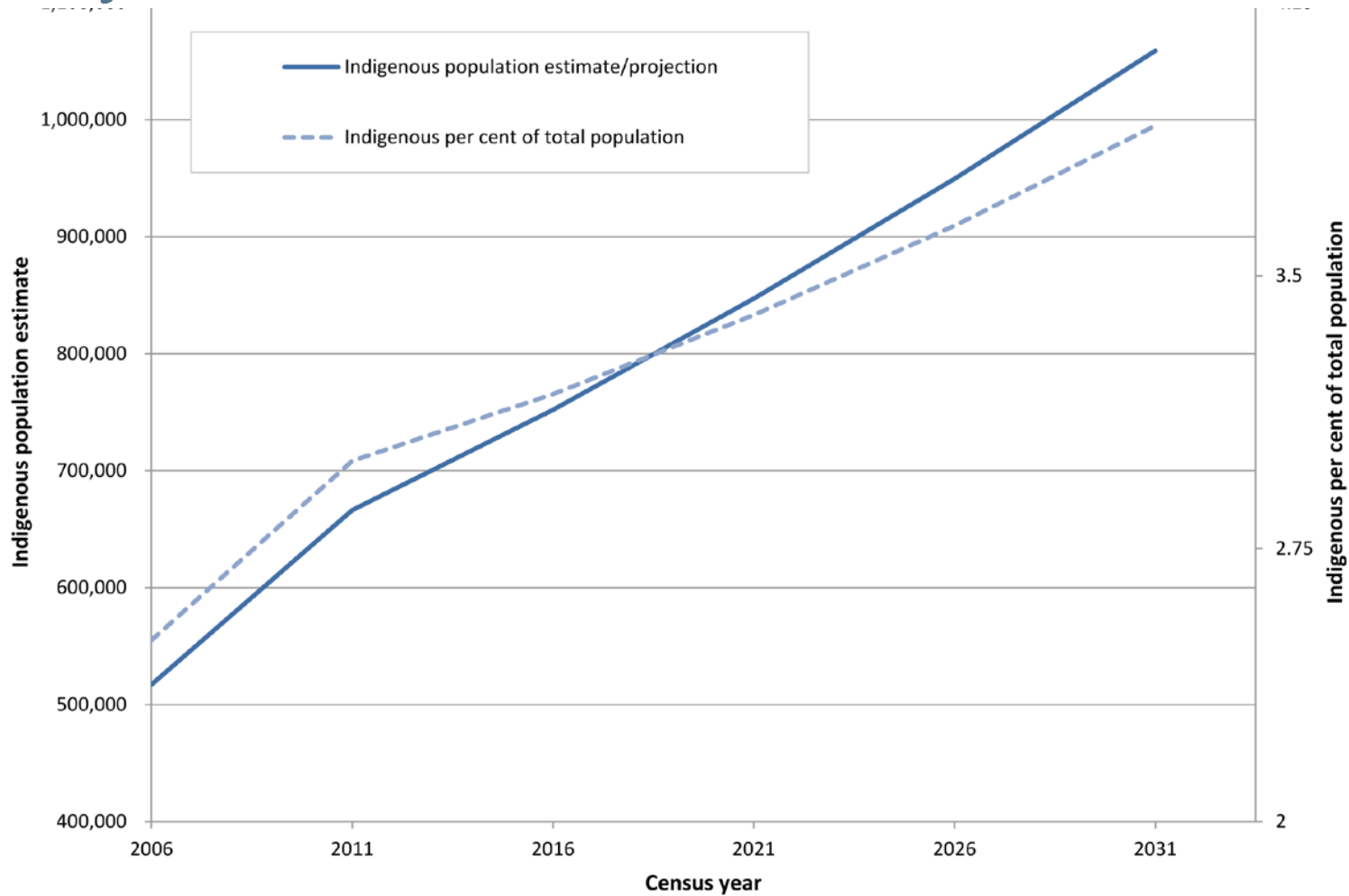
Source: Horton, 1996

Figure 2: Indigenous and non-Indigenous Population estimates, Australia, 2011



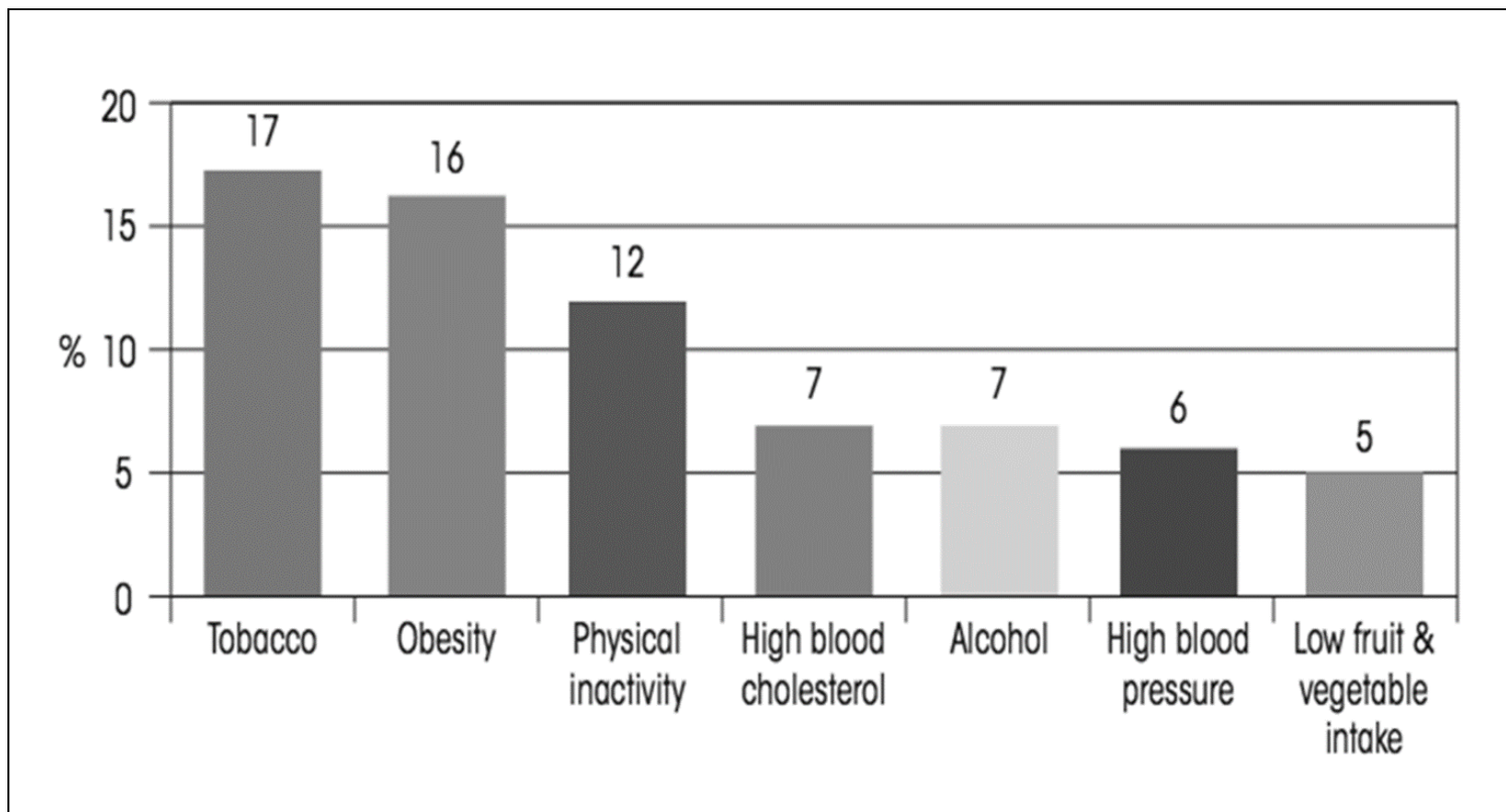
Source: ABS 2011 Census Unpublished data

Why this matters?



Source: Biddle, 2013

Contribution to morbidity and mortality



Source: Vos et al, 2007

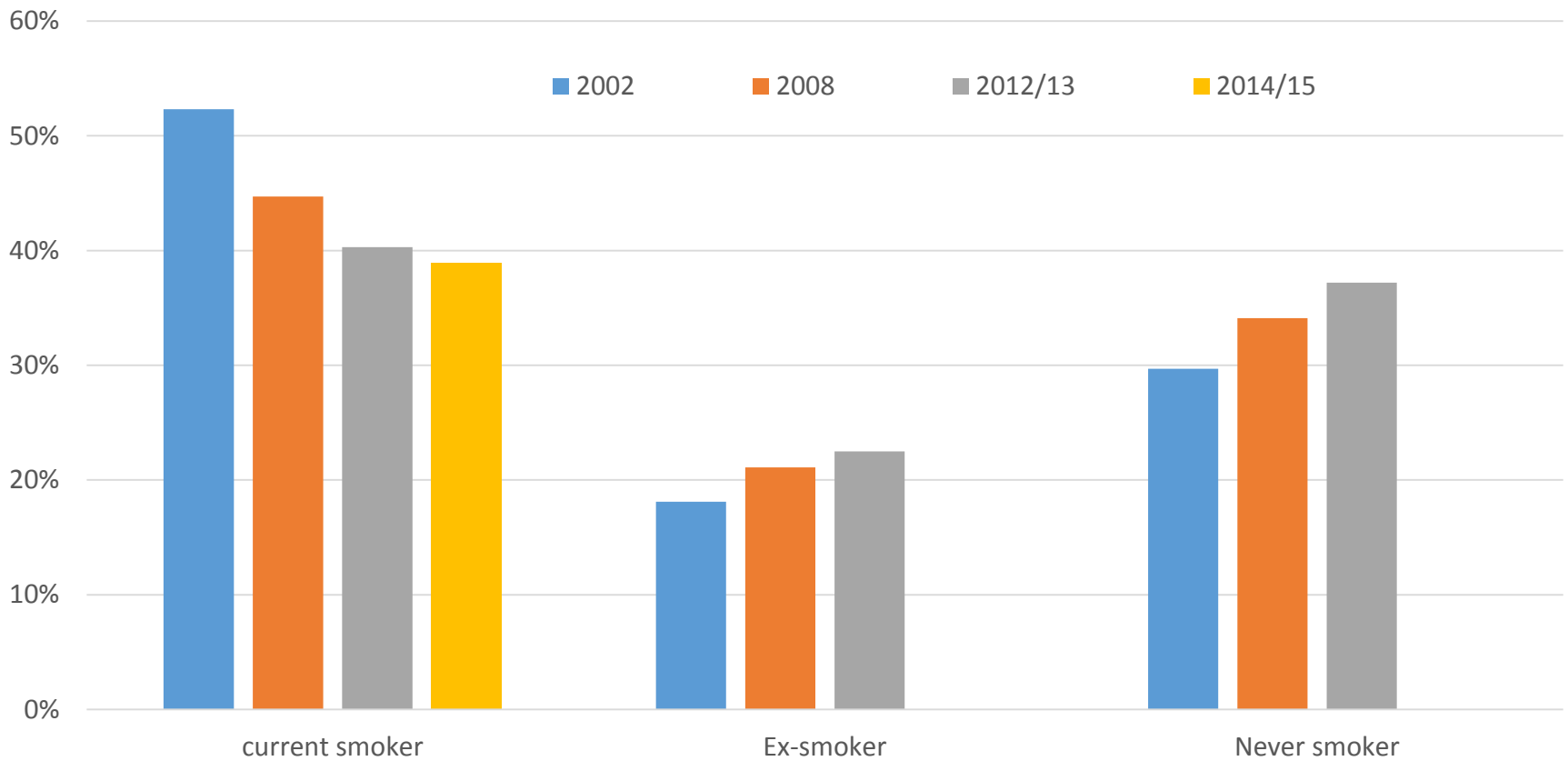
Current tobacco use

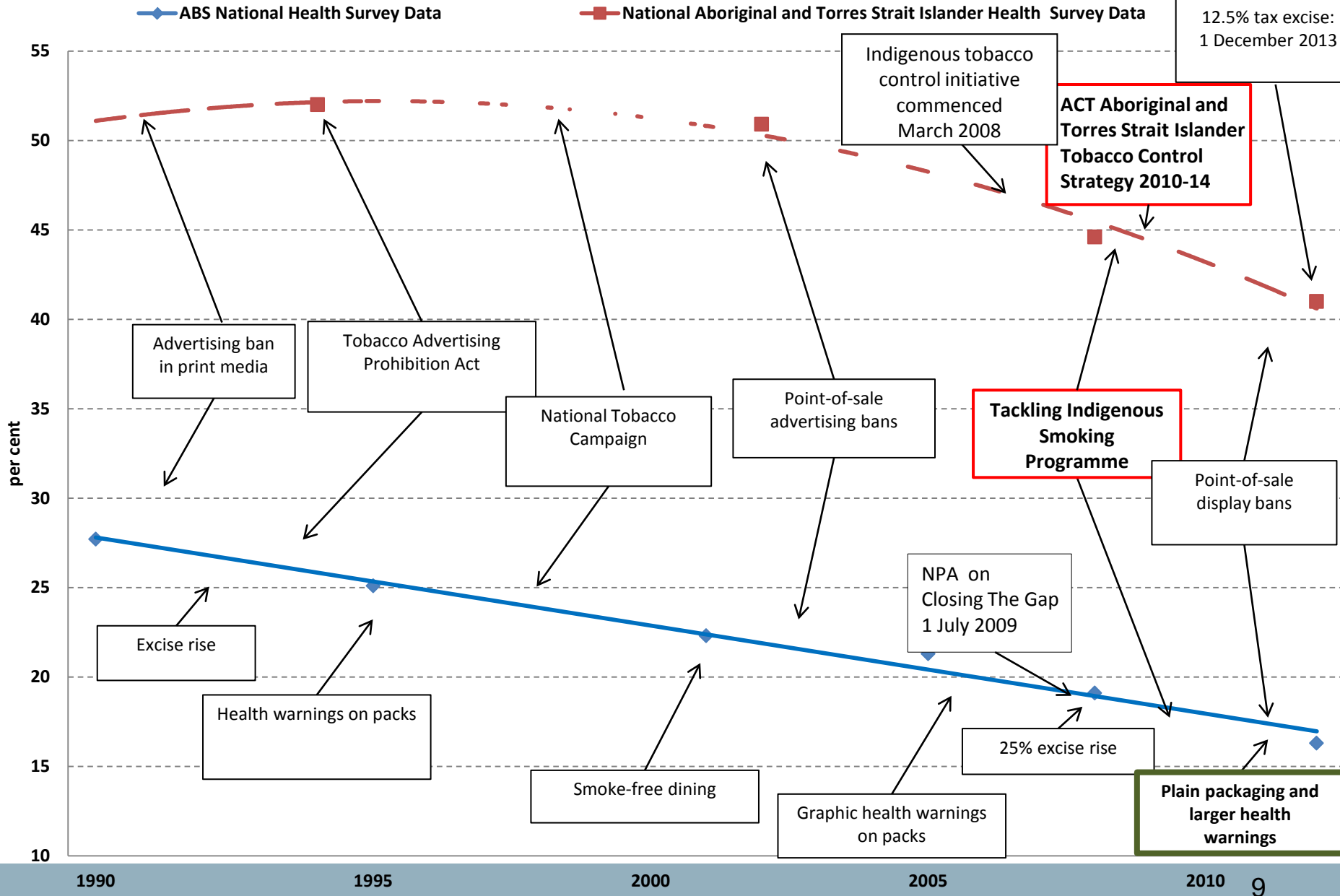


Source: ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 2012-13

*Data for non-Indigenous people are for 2011-12, from the Australian Health Survey 2011-13.

Tobacco use, cont.





Tackling Indigenous smoking (TIS) national programme

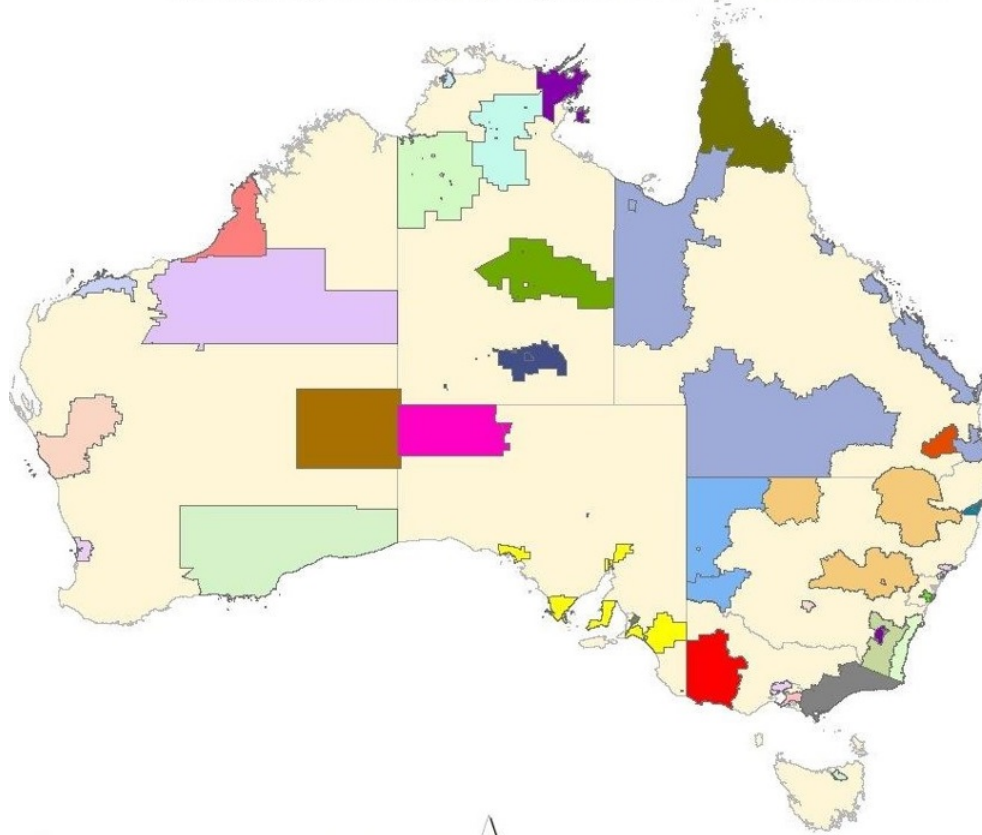
- An emphasis on flexible approaches for *regional* level tobacco control.

The programme includes:

- regional tobacco control grants
- a National Best Practice Unit (NBPU)
- enhancements to existing Quitline services
- brief intervention training
- programme evaluation and monitoring
- special projects in areas of high need.

Focus 2016-19

Tackling Indigenous Smoking Regional Tobacco Control Grants 2016



Source: Wright, 2016

Best practice

- Current disconnect between evidence and practice
- Service sector wants to know what works
- Evidence translation as a component of programme
- Centralising access to evidence based approaches

What works in this space?

- Screening with brief intervention \pm NRT
- Training staff to deliver cessation advice
- Group based support
- Multi-component programs
- Sustained emphasis

Evidence gaps

- Brief interventions alone
- Some medications
- Specialist tobacco workers
- Taxation
- Media campaigns

Recent developments

- Australian evidence on tobacco associated mortality (Banks et al, 2016)
- Talking About The Smokes (TATS) (Thomas et al, 2015)
- Cytisine trial (NDARC, 2016)
- Plain packaging (Maddox et al, 2015)

Considerations

- Formal evaluations in this space
- Variations in population distribution
- Silver bullet approaches will not work
- Allow time and sustained effort

Key messages

- Aboriginal people want to quit
- Sustained multi component approaches are best
- Evidence building needed for:
 - Brief advice/intervention and NRT
 - Taxation
 - Plain packs
 - Mass media

Conclusions

- Tobacco use is the single largest contributor to Indigenous illness and death
- Nicotine is addictive
- Approaches must be aimed at abstinence, prevent initiation and relapse, and eliminate environmental tobacco smoke exposure
- A sustained comprehensive and authoritative national tobacco control programme is a must

Resources

- Indigenous HealthInfoNet
- Cancer Council
- Dept of Health (TIS)
- NACCHO
- National Tackling Indigenous Smoking Co-ordinator (Tom Calma)

Thanks

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