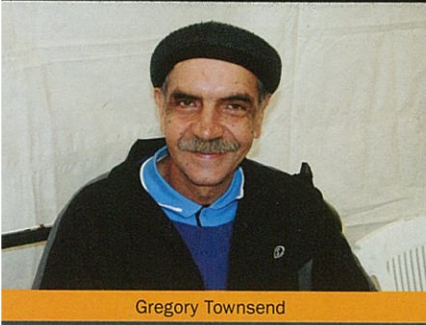


# WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

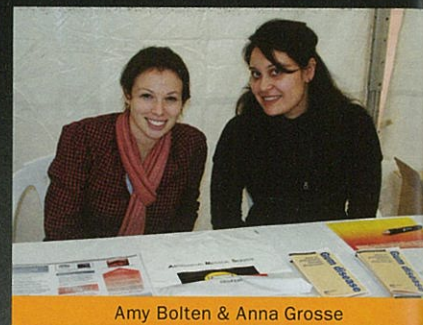
A new partnership has been formed to help reduce the prevalence of smoking in the Aboriginal population.



Gregory Townsend



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding:  
Mark Spinks (Babana Aboriginal Men's Group); Naomi Mayers (AMS Redfern)  
& Dr Chris Rissel (Sydney South West Area Health Service)



Amy Bolten & Anna Grosse



Janice Nixon, Hector Terare & John Williams



Gloria Strachan & Mark Mitchell (SmokeCheck)



Melissa McDonnell, Naomi Mayers,  
Veronica Button & Claudette Hoskins

The Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) Redfern, Sydney South West Area Health Service (SSWAHS), Babana Aboriginal Men's Group and Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation (AMS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, with the common goal of reducing the Aboriginal smoking rate by five percent over the next three years.

Fifty percent of Indigenous adults are smokers, approximately twice the rate of the non-Indigenous population.

Dr Chris Rissel, Director of the SSWAHS Health Promotion Service said this was a long-term partnership to improve the health of Aboriginal adults and children. "One of the aims of the project is to increase the number of homes and cars that are smoke-free. We are also providing eight weeks free nicotine replacement therapy to health workers, to encourage them to lead by example and quit smoking," Dr Rissel said.

The project will also provide tailored cessation support and services for the community.

Naomi Mayers, CEO of the AMS Redfern, said an advertising campaign appropriate for the community would also be developed as part of the project. "There is a lot to learn about what works and what doesn't, but by the end of this project we hope this partnership has helped reduce the number of people who smoke.

"We also expect to have gained new evidence about what does work and what our people want, so that we can change smoking behaviours and improve our people's health," Ms Mayers said.



Kerrie-Anne White (Tharawal)



Elaine Veava, Melissa McDonnell & Jan Davison



Phillip Williams & Jason Ives

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