



Key Facts About Assessing the Strength of Partnerships

Building partnerships and collaborations to facilitate support for tobacco control is an important part of the TIS Program. Partnerships help increase the reach of TIS activities and are a part of the program principle of "systems thinking."

Partnerships and collaborations for TIS

The performance report captures information about the organisations and individuals you partner with to deliver TIS activities. For each activity you are asked if you have worked with partners from:

- local, state or federal government departments;
- other non TIS-funded community controlled health services;
- mainstream health services;
- community organisations;
- sporting clubs;
- schools;
- non-TIS funded services within your organisation;
- non-TIS funded services within sub-contracted partner organisations;
- community ambassadors/champions;
- other community members.

It is important to think about the purpose of these partnerships. Do they increase your reach geographically, or to priority populations, or to people who do not typically attend your service? You should also collect more detailed data which describes the strength of your partnerships, as this will help the continual quality improvement (CQI) of your activities. The nine key areas in which the strength of partnerships can be assessed are shown here.



The strength of partnership is usually measured through a survey or a focus group discussion. Remember that both organisations should benefit from the partnership, so you should get your partner organisation's views on how the relationship is developing as well as making your own assessment. A survey template and a focus group discussion guide are provided for you to use (Sourced from:

[http://www.how-matters.org/about/.](http://www.how-matters.org/about/))

Please contact NBPU TIS if you would like a word version of either of these templates:

Info@tacklingindigenoussmoking.com.au





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Partnership Survey

Use the template below to score the nine areas of partnership working on a scale of 1-10. You and your partner organisation should each complete the survey independently, then come together to discuss your scores. This way you can see what your strengths are and also work together to improve the partnership.



Effective communication

Straightforward communication based on trust and clear and simple reporting.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Common values

A clear understanding of each other's values with mutual commitment to shared goals and responsible behaviour to each other.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Long-term commitment

Commitment to supporting core activities

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Transparency

Clear expectations of roles and responsibilities

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Shared learning

Help with networking and cross-fertilization of good ideas, sharing of expertise.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Contextual awareness

A deep understanding of the local context and work on the ground.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Organizational growth

Support that allows partners to 'scale up' their work.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Participatory processes

A strong emphasis that the relationship should be a partnership. The importance of sharing processes, for example around monitoring and evaluation.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Moral support

A key factor (both ways) for keeping us motivated.

Disagree ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ Agree

Partnership Focus Group Discussion

Centre your discussion around the following questions:



Effective communication

What do you think about the quality of communication between our organisations?

Do you think it is straightforward communication based on trust and clear and simple reporting?

Common values

Do we have a clear understanding of each other's values?

Do you believe we are committed to shared goals and responsible behaviour towards each other?

Long-term commitment

Do our organisations have a commitment to supporting shared core activities?

Transparency

Are there 'clear expectations' of what is needed from each of us in this partnership?

Shared learning

Do we support each other with networking?

Do we share ideas and expertise to help both organisations achieve our core goals?

Contextual awareness

Do we share a good understanding of the local context and our work on the ground?

Organizational growth

Does our partnership support each of our organisations to 'scale up' our work?

Participatory processes

Do you feel this is a true partnership?

Do you think we have shared processes in place, for example how we monitor and evaluate the impact of our shared activities?

Moral support

Does our partnership keep you motivated?

