

Strong & Deadly Futures: co-development of a computerised school-based vaping prevention wellbeing program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

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Background:

Strong & Deadly Futures (SDF) is a randomised controlled trial of a culturally inclusive, alcohol and drug (AOD) prevention program. It was co-developed with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (hereto respectfully referred to as Indigenous) and non-Indigenous students across Australia. The digital lesson package aims to promote wellbeing, empowerment and prevent AOD use and harms through skills development and cultural strengths. In post-trial surveys, several educators indicated an urgent need for a targeted vaping prevention module.

Aim:

SDF aims to develop and evaluate a culturally inclusive module focusing on preventing vaping among high school students and improving their wellbeing.

Method: The vaping module is being co-developed in 2025 with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Year 7-10 students (n=124) from 4 schools in NSW, WA and QLD through consultations, and in partnership with an Indigenous creative agency (Cause/Affect). The consultations include creative activities (e.g. photovoice) and focus group discussions to gauge students' knowledge and perceptions about vaping and explore appropriate refusal strategies, empowering community connections and positive role models. Information gathered will inform the creation of culturally safe animations and educational materials for the module. Iterative feedback will be obtained from teachers, Aboriginal Education Officers, students, Youth Advisory Board (PREMISE and Matilda Centre) and the Aboriginal Reference Group, to ensure the program is sensitive to and congruent with the students' cultural and

social experiences. The module will then be piloted in 2026 with the Year 7/8 cohort in the 4 schools. Baseline and post-program surveys will be collected to assess program implementation feasibility and its efficacy in improving knowledge, attitudes, and intentions to use vapes.

Results/progress:

School consultations and module development are currently in progress and will be completed in early 2026. This presentation will share insights from the co-development process and showcase the vaping prevention module that will be piloted.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No relevant disclosures.