

Supplementary questions: The Matilda Centre

1. What are the results you're seeing from the OurFutures Vaping Program?

The OurFutures Vaping program evaluation is funded by the Australian Government Medical Research Future Fund. This is one of the two most highly competitive rigorous medical research funds in Australia. Through this evaluation we have learnt that students and teachers rate the OurFutures Vaping program highly.

Student evaluation (n= 1523) indicates that:

- 85% rated the OurFutures Vaping Program as either good or very good.
- 81% felt the skills and information they learned would help them in the future.
- 80% liked learning via the online cartoon lessons.

Teacher evaluation (n= 65) indicates that:

- 94% rated the educational quality of the additional classroom activities highly.
- 89% rated the OurFutures Vaping Program as either good or very good.
- 89% found the OurFutures Vaping Program easy to implement.
- 88% felt students could recall the health information well.
- 86% said they would use the OurFutures Vaping Program in the future.

2. What sets the OurFutures Vaping Program apart from other school-based programs and modules?

The rigorous evaluation and the use of a highly successful model for prevention, developed and refined over two decades of research, is what sets the OurFutures Vaping program apart from all other school-based programs and modules.

The evaluation of the OurFutures Vaping program is funded by a \$1.9M grant from the Australian Government Medical Research Future Fund to a national team of leading researchers from University of Sydney (Prof Nicola Newton, Dr Lauren Gardner, A/Prof Emily Stockings, Prof Becky Freeman, Dr Katrina Champion, A/Prof Matt Sunderland, A/Prof Lexine Stapinski, Dr Louise Thornton, Dr Jennifer Debenham), University of NSW (Prof Hayden McRobbie), University of Queensland (A/Prof Janni Leung, Monash University (Prof Cathy Mihalopoulos), and Curtin University (Prof Steve Allsop, A/Prof Nyanda McBride, Dr Nicole Lee). This is the only school-based prevention program to be funded following national peer review and assessment.

The OurFutures Vaping model was developed using the internationally recognised and awarded OurFutures model. This model for prevention in secondary school has demonstrated effectiveness across 8 RCTs involving 240 schools and more than 21,000 students. This world-first program of research spans 21 years, >20 institutions and >60 researchers globally, and has yielded some of the largest and most sustained outcomes for the prevention of substance use (up to 7 years). OurFutures has been shown to be more effective than health education as usual in reducing alcohol consumption, binge drinking, cannabis use, MDMA use, harms

from substance use, intentions to use substances and increasing knowledge about substance use up to 3 years following the intervention [1-3]. Importantly, reductions in harmful alcohol use have also been seen up to 7 years post-program use [4]. There are no other school-based drug education programs in Australia underpinned by such extensive, long-term, and successful work.

3. Have you specifically evaluated the OurFutures Vaping Program's effectiveness among young people from CALD backgrounds, or young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people? If so, what were the findings of that evaluation?

OurFutures is a universal model for prevention, meaning it is designed for all young people within the target age groups (in this case Years 7 & 8), regardless of level of risk. Our evaluation is extensive and we have collected detailed data about CALD attributes among all our participants and will investigate any potential differences in effectiveness among these groups, although this has not yet been completed.

In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people specifically, the Strong & Deadly Futures program (based on the OurFutures prevention model) is a strengths-focused curriculum program for Year 8 students that was designed to prevent uptake and harm from alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarette and cannabis use. With funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, the program was co-designed together with Aboriginal students and staff at four schools in QLD and NSW, and was developed in partnership with Indigenous-owned creative agencies [5]. The pilot trial of the program in 2019 demonstrated that it was well-received by students and school staff [6], and the program significantly increased students' knowledge of harm minimisation strategies and reduced their psychological distress from pre to post program delivery [7]. Following these successful results, the team were funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council to conduct a national trial of the program in 22 schools across NSW, WA and QLD from 2022 to 2024 [8].

4. How many schools have registered for early access to the OurFutures Vaping Program?

The early access scheme was capped at 250 schools, which has now been reached. Most of this interest has been from NSW (37%) and amongst government schools (56%).

References

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