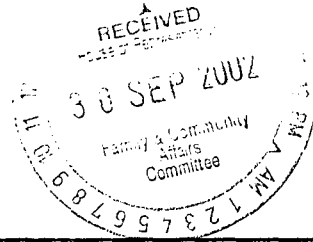


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12 August, 2002

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600



House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs	
Submission No:	278
Date Received:	30/09/02
Secretary:	B. Folkes

**SUBMISSION TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES
INQUIRY**

This submission deals only with the delivery of health services and in particular the affect of tobacco on the indigenous population.

Tobacco causes more deaths among these communities than any other drug including alcohol and petrol sniffing. Over 50% of indigenous Australians are smokers compared to 22% of all Australians, in some cases the figure for the indigenous population exceeds 80% with the disastrous affect on the health and life expectancy of these people.

Indigenous women are up to 19 times more likely to die from pneumonia than the rest of the Australian population. I am sure I don't have to quote more statistics to make my point.

These issues have been almost totally ignored and very few health programs have been devised to assess and address this problem.

Will the Standing Committee please consider this matter as part of their review?

Merv Rolph