

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

Youth Tobacco Uptake

Associate Professor Natalie Bolzan and Mr Neil Hall, Social Justice Social Change Research Centre, together with Sydney West Area Health Service are developing new strategies which will reduce the number of young people taking up smoking and help others to quit smoking with funding under the UWS Research Partnership Program.



‘Despite teens saying they would like to quit smoking, most support programs have not been designed with the needs of young people in mind.’ says Associate Professor Bolzan. ‘Smoking among young people is a major concern as it is during this period that the habit is developed. It also causes immediate health problems for them, for instance, negatively affecting their respiratory health, normal lung growth and fitness. There are still unacceptable high levels of youth tobacco use with over a quarter of a million Australian school students aged 12-17 identified as current smokers.’

Researchers will use participatory action research, drawing directly from the experiences and knowledge of young people themselves. In particular, researchers will work with young people in Katoomba to begin to understand why they take up smoking and what might induce them to quit. This will be done by consulting and working with young people within the context of the wider community to explore the issues and develop relevant products (e.g. music CD, video, posters, and comics) to advertise the health implications from smoking.

The research will add to the body of knowledge about tobacco uptake and cessation among young people. The research will enhance health service development and delivery for young people in the Blue Mountains and Greater Western Sydney region.

Project Title: *Youth Tobacco Uptake/Cessation Pilot Research Project*

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<http://www.uws.edu/sjsc>

For more information on UWS Research Partnership Program, check:
<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/fundingopps/internalgrants>