Focus On: Tobacco use provides a snapshot of tobacco use among ACT young people aged 12-17 years. We used cross-sectional data from a triennial survey of a representative sample of Australian secondary students undertaken in the ACT between 1996 and 2017. Questions on smoking behaviour have not changed since the survey commenced and were part of a larger survey assessing use of alcohol and illicit substances. Current smokers were defined as having smoked on at least one day in the last week.

### Tobacco use: secondary students

**EVER SMOKED**

**75% LOWER** in 2017 than in 1996, but did not significantly decline between 2014 and 2017.

**OLDER GIRLS most likely** to have ever tried cigarettes.

1996: 56%
2014: 19%
2017: 14%

Source: ASSAD, 1996-2017

**SMOKING FREQUENCY**

Overall, **11% OF STUDENTS SURVEYED HAD SMOKED IN THE LAST YEAR.**

**Highest in older girls.**

- Smoked last week: 3%
- Smoked last month: 4%
- Smoked last year: 11%

Source: ASSAD, 2017

### CURRENT SMOKERS

- **Attended >1 lesson related to smoking**: 39%
- **Below avg school work**: 13%
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**: 12%
- **>$60/wk pocket money**: 8%

Source: ASSAD, 2017

### E-CIGARETTES

1 in 10 students tried in their lifetime, **BOYS (12%) MORE LIKELY THAN GIRLS (8%)** to use them.

Source: ASSAD, 2014 and 2017

### ROLL YOUR OWN TOBACCO

- **All students surveyed**: 8%
- **Girls**: 10%
- **Boys**: 6%

Source: ASSAD, 2014 and 2017

### INTENTION TO SMOKE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR

Of all current smokers, 1 in 2 intend to smoke this time next year.

- All current smokers: 52%
- Boys current smokers: 54%
- Girls current smokers: 40%

Source: ASSAD, 2017

### ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CURRENT SMOKERS

- **2002**: 4,283
- **2014**: 1,525
- **2017**: 384

It is *estimated that less than 900 ACT secondary students smoked at least 1 cigarette in the last 7 days, down from previous years.*

*Extrapolated from ASSAD results to the number of ACT full time secondary students.

Source: ASSAD, 1996-2017 and ABS 4221.0 Schools, Australia, 2017