

## VNSHS REGIONAL VALIDATION PROGRAM

Recognition for your efforts in reducing tobacco related harm

The **Victorian Network of Smokefree Healthcare Services** was established in 2011 as part of Global Network for Tobacco Free Healthcare Services – an independent, not for profit association devoted to tobacco control ([www.tobaccofreehealthcare.org](http://www.tobaccofreehealthcare.org)).

The Victorian Network has a growing membership and aims to:

- Promote the ideals and resources of the Global Network, including the Global Standards for healthcare services
- Provide opportunities for networking and information sharing amongst Victorian health services, and
- Work with local stakeholders to enhance the support available to health services.

A key feature of the Network is that it seeks to actively facilitate improvement by engaging members towards achieving specific standards in tobacco control. Members self-audit against the global standards on an annual basis and develop action plans to guide continuous improvement. This process is formalised and requires sign-off at an Executive level, ensuring health services maintain high level awareness and commitment.

Both internationally and amongst our own Australian members there is evidence that this process does indeed facilitate improvement in performance.

### Taking the next step.....

#### Validation based on the Global Standards

VNSHS members can have their performance against the standards independently validated through the VNSHS Regional Validation Program. This means that the service can be recognised for its contribution to reducing the health impacts of smoking and for aligning with best practice approaches in managing nicotine dependence. It also means that the health service can gain valuable input towards continuous improvement.

The process involves a formal and structured review, conducted by experienced health service surveyors and resulting in a detailed report that provides a basis for further planning and improvement. The process also results in recognition of the level of performance achieved according to the global performance framework and the global standards, as shown in the diagram overleaf.

**Importantly, validation through the Regional Validation Program is now a pre-requisite for health services wishing to apply for GOLD Status at the Global Network Gold Forum.**

## Levels of achievement against the Global Standards (Maximum score 144):

<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>GOLD</b>
<b>≥ 27 points</b>	<b>≥ 108 points</b>	<b>≥ 126 points*</b>

\* Healthcare Services with a self-audit score of 126 or more are eligible to request to participate in an external assessment process towards [GOLD FORUM](#) recognition.

### What is involved?

1. The participating health service conducts their self-audit against the Global Standards (an audit conducted within the last month is required).
2. The results are externally validated by experienced surveyors who review the evidence provided by the health service and provide feedback to support ongoing improvement. Specifically, the validation process involves:
  - Provision of relevant documentation as supporting evidence of the health service's achievements.
  - A one-day site visit at which the health service has the opportunity to demonstrate their level of achievement in relation to the standards and provide further evidence to validate the self-assessed performance as required.
  - Provision of a detailed report describing the surveyors' assessment against the standards and against the self-audit result and including recommendations for ongoing improvement.
3. Other network members have an opportunity to participate in the on-site review process and contribute to the learning for the health service in question and the wider group.
4. The level of achievement is formally certified and recognised on the Network website.

### What does it cost?

Participation in the VNSHS Regional Validation Program is provided at the cost of \$2,500 per health service (including GST), which includes the 1-day visit by two surveyors and the detailed report. It also includes support from the VNSHS Coordinating Centre in planning for the visit and arranging involvement of other members.

### How do we apply?

The service is available only to VNSHS members. Complete the application overleaf and submit to the VNSHS Coordinating Centre together with a recent self-audit and your current Action Plan. The Coordinating Centre will liaise with you regarding suitable times and preparatory work.

# VNSHS Regional Validation Program Application

**Hospital/healthcare service:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

Job title / Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Member of VNSHS since:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred dates of VNSHS Regional Validation Program visit (please provide four options):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose:

- A self-audit completed within the last month
- Most recent Action Plan in relation to SmokeFree implementation
- A purchase order made out to Barwon Health for \$2,500 (including GST)

**Hospital / Health Service CEO**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Victorian Network of Smokefree Healthcare Services:

Email: [smokefreevictoria@projecthealth.com.au](mailto:smokefreevictoria@projecthealth.com.au)

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