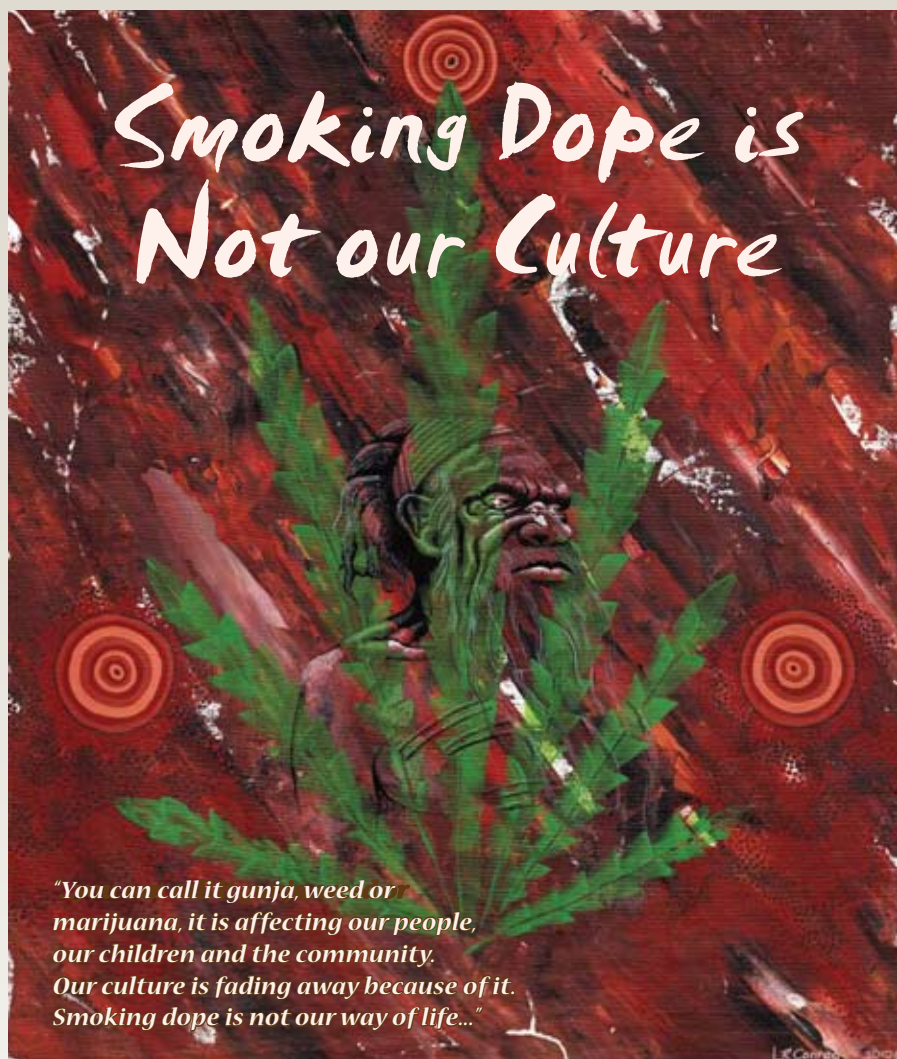


Cape York Cannabis Project Artwork Posters

This set of posters was created as part of the Cape York Cannabis Project and the Weed It Out initiative, produced by the Queensland Police Service and James Cook University. The four posters offer an Indigenous perspective on the impact of cannabis use in their communities and on their culture.

Each year many health promotion resources such as this are produced. If your group or organisation has resources which are available, the *Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal* can help to publicise them in the *Indigenous Health Promotion Resources Guide – 7th Edition*, out in April 2012. Complete the form on page 13 and return it to us.

Right: 'What Indigenous peoples say about cannabis: Words from Lotus Glen': Posters were created from 12 workshops attended by 145 inmates from Lotus Glen prison. A focus group selected the most important quotes and designed this poster which was used to feedback the workshop results to all inmates. The overwhelming response is that the inmates wanted to have their stories told and didn't want young ones to follow in their footsteps.



Cape York Cannabis Project
NHMRC project grant #601002

Thanks to Lotus Glen 2010



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'Smoking Dope is Not Our Culture' shows a strong Aboriginal man who has connections with his community and people however, with gunja the strong man is pushed into the background and connections can be hurt or lost. Most importantly, if the gunja is taken away the strong man is still there. Quote from artist "You can call it gunja, weed or marijuana. It is affecting our people, our children, and our culture is fading away because of it. It has effects on the community and extends to other communities. Smoking dope is not our way of life"

What Indigenous say about

Words

"Kids see their parents do it so the kids do it."

"Even the old fellas smoke it with alcohol. I stabbed my Aunty, but didn't remember I'd done it."

"What parents do, the kids follow."

"Woke up the next morning and the cops were there."

"It breaks up family."

"You take drugs, drugs take you, it'll take your relationship, your house and everything."

"If you over abuse it you start to get into harder drugs, like heroin. Some fellas I know, they on the needle now."

"Leaders in our communities are letting it happen."

"Some people abuse it."

"Alcohol bans are good, but what's replaced them?"

"Decriminalise it."

"I felt like I had no life."

"The thing (gunja) was taking control of my life."

"Alcohol was the problem - Liquor Licence taken away - then younger ones started sniffing and smoking gunja."

"I thought I was smart enough to control my own mind, but I found out I wasn't."

"In schools there used to have culture session, boomerang making etc, kept us in touch with all that stuff."

"When people carry pain inside, that's what makes us drink and smoke."

"Education for the young."

"I get 'bucket bong' fluid on the lungs."

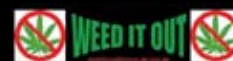
"Find a way to talk to the kids - sports."

"Boredom an issue Nothing to do."

"You become a different person."

"We need to work with the kids."

Cape York Cannabis Project
NHMRC project grant #601002



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Indigenous peoples out cannabis:

from Lotus Glen

"You should focus on young ones, aged 10. That way you can stop them before their brain changes."

"They start young."

"Kids don't know the effects."

"Can't get brain cells back."

"Young fellas don't know about gunja - if you get the word out, they might change their way."

"In our country, it's getting worse - the little fellas are starting because they see their brothers and friends doing it."

"We need to tell young one, this is how it can affect your life (tell them our story as inmates), then they can tell the next generation."

"Wrong message around gunja - kids think it's cool."

"Raising awareness as a community as a whole."

"Go bush, no drugs out there."

"Too much emphasis on money business - you don't always need money i.e. going hunting, connecting with country."

"Take young fellas fishing."

"Mens groups can do something about it - traditional cooking."

"Youth centre in our community - run by the council."

"Take them camping, show them where they came from, show them what they have to eat to survive."

"Get everyone involved in hunting and fishing."

"If you get people to work on cultural things - the other problem will go away."

"Need positive role models."

"Older people need to make the change for younger people."

"I want to change it for the next generation."

"I don't want to see my kids do it."

"Damage to custom and culture has happened over time, kids need to see this story and how it affects the present day."

"Slowly, slowly they steal something from you and you don't even realise."

"For us in here - We don't want the young ones to follow bad footsteps. They look up to us. They got no one else to look up to."

"We can see this issue from far away - clear for us."

"Gunja makes you become a different person - respect and love is lost."

"Nothing given back to parents."

"Community elders are important."

"When the love goes, the respect goes."

"People don't respect elders these days."

"How did we get to this point?"

*Watermark designed by feedback group participants for decorative purposes only

Thanks to Lotus Glen 2010



40 YEARS

07 4042 1657



"Cannabis is breaking up friendships, families and community bonds. There are bad effects like mental illness, health problems and most of all going to prison..."

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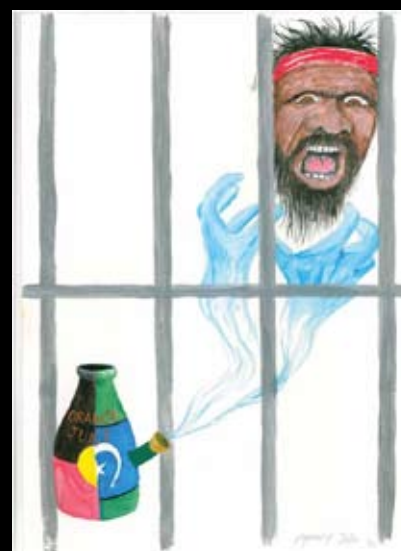
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40 YEARS

"Cannabis is not our culture" was created by an artist from the Torres Strait Islands, who says, "My painting represents the circle of cannabis in our community. Cannabis is not our culture. I believe everybody has a gift from the day they were brought to this world, Cannabis can take away that gift".

WHEN IT'S GOT YOU, IT WON'T LET YOU GO



Cape York Cannabis Project

NHMRC project grant #601002

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40 YEARS

"When it's got you, it won't let you go": Poster was created by an inmate of Lotus Glen prison to illustrate the effects of Cannabis.