Cape York Cannabis Project artwork posters

The posters featured below were produced as part of the Cape York Cannabis Project and focus on the impact of cannabis use on Indigenous culture. This project is part of the Weed it Out initiative run by Queensland Police Service and James Cook University.
Smoking Dope is Not our Culture

You can call it gunja, weed or marijuana, it is affecting our people, our children and the community. Our culture is fading away because of it. Smoking dope is not our way of life...

Cape York Cannabis Project
NHMRC project grant #601002

Thanks to Lotus Glen 2010

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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...
What Indigenous peoples say about cannabis:

Words from Lotus Glen

“Kids see their parents do it so the kids do it.”
“Parents do the kids follow.”
“It breaks up family.”
“You take drugs, drugs take you. It will take your relationship, your home and everything.”
“Leaders in our community are letting it happen.”
“Some people abuse it.”
“Decriminalise it.”
“I felt like I had no life.”
“The thing [Alcohol] was taking control of my life.”
“I thought I was smart enough to control my own mind, but I found out I wasn’t.”
“When people carry pain inside, that’s what makes us drink and smoke.”
“I get “bucket being” from the trouble.”
“Boredom an issue: Nothing to do.”
“You become a different person.”
“Even the old fellas smoke it with alcohol. I smoked my Auntie but didn’t remember I’d done it.”
“Wake up the next morning and the cops were there.”
“If you ever believe you start to get into harder drugs, like heroin. Some fellas I know, they are on the streets now.”
“Alcohol bans are good, but what’s replaced them?”
“Alcohol was the problem. Liquor licensed taken away then younger ones started sniffing and smoking ganja.”
“In schools there used to have elders session, bowwowwing making sure we kept us in touch with stuff”
“Education for the young.”
“Find a way to talk to the kids: sports.”
“We need to work with the kids.”
“Too much emphasis on money business – you don’t always need money i.e. going hunting, respecting with country.”
“Take young fellas fishing.”
“Men groups can do something about it – traditional cooking.”
“Youth centre in our community – run by the council.”
“Takes them camping, show them where they come 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.”
“Digger 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.”

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James Cook University
AUSTRALIA 40 YEARS

Watermark designed by healesville group participants for feedback purposes only
WHEN IT’S GOT YOU, IT WON’T LET YOU GO

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