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| **Art to deepen understanding and support the development of health promotion messages: showcasing art from an Indigenous-themed workshop on tobacco smoking** |
| **Health promoting objectives**This is the showing of several artworks created during the Indigenous pre-conference workshop of Oceania Tobacco Control Conference in 2015. Participants were led through a 2-hour experiential arts therapy process to dwell on what tobacco smoking has meant to them personally or professionally or to the Indigenous community they serve. The workshop was part of a research project called Translating Health and Arts for New Knowledge and Understanding (THANKU). The workshop had the dual purpose of enabling health messages to come from a different inspiration, and helping participants understand on a deeper level the influences and factors that impact them and their communities in this often challenging work. The workshop also successfully trained participants in basic skills around the arts therapy process that they could take back to their communities. Participants significantly increased their understanding of the use of arts in health promotion and their likelihood of using this method in the near future. **Description of the artwork**Seventeen artworks were created during the workshop, many of which we have permission to show and discuss publicly. The themes of the health promotion messages and images will be discussed in the session. These centre around optimism, family and culture, working together for better health, recovery and freedom, the isolation of smoking and smoking as a barrier, and urgency of the workload. Several artworks are accompanied by a micro-story explaining the key messages, and key words may be written on the images.**Intended audience**Anyone involved in tackling tobacco use especially in Indigenous or other high-priority populations, or looking for an alternative way to generate understanding of a health condition or develop health promotion messages. Those interested in ArtsHealth initiatives, or Indigenous-inspired art, or novel ways to work with a community or health professionals.**Duration and intended use**15 minutes. The artworks will be shown digitally or in a print form, and discussed. We will also highlight the participants’ learning and personal value gained from the art-making process. |