

Art as Evaluation

Roslyn Snyder from WISDOM in Your Life (a private business) has published a range of books and charts that explains complex psychological processes in metaphorical pictures to help people repair their broken lives. She runs interactive workshops using art, drama, music, dance, games, stories and metaphors that repair and strengthen the emotional/mental skeleton of people. Roslyn has worked with people from all walks of life, but the success with young men who are suicidal, depressed, abusing drugs, violent or have been jailed (about 90% of the young men are indigenous) has been remarkable. Roslyn also runs training for professionals to use these resources.

Art was used to evaluate her workshops because many of her clients cannot express themselves in words. Art shows clearly what they have learned in ways that a written or even spoken evaluation cannot. Art taps into the unconscious and this learning is much harder to undo. Even when participants verbally report that the workshop was 'a waste of time' the art shows a different story. Follow ups (up to two years later) have shown the majority of participants feel in control of their own lives now and proud of who they are. They are becoming connected community members.

Website: www.wisdominyourlife.com.au