Typology of Harm: what's the harm of community arts?

Governmentality

- Paternalistic gatekeeping (to 'protect' the interests of community)
- Reporting only on positive outcomes
- Power relations in Evalfunders only ask for good, funded fearful of defunding if share negative value
- No negative value (take only appreciative and affirmative approach)
- Smokescreen for right wing government agenda (development)
- Overly affirmative participation ('token' participation by marginal groups)
- Ghettoization of community issues ('too hard basket')
- Grouping of difference as 'other' ('all disadvantage have some concerns')
- Difference within communities squashed
- Social engineering create the perfect citizen – participating in the right way)
- Not listening/ noise creation, voice poverty

Representation

- Story theft¹
- Censorship or pacifying strong voices
- Extending stigma
- Creating spectacle when taken out of context
- Speaking on behalf of others
- Archetypes
- Appropriation of creative methods and voices
- Identity problem for art
- Hollywood aspirations for non-artist participants
- Art subjectivity and categories
- Fake diversity
- Loss of cultural abilities
- Ownership: moral/ legal
- Stereotypes exploiting individuals/communities archetypes

Colonial Development

- Can duplicate or further entrench the very inequities we seek to change
- Cultural assumptions
- Participation does not impact outcomes
- Creating dependence no self determination or capacity realized
- FIFO fly in fly out workers (like mining companies) have no local relationships
- Intention for change
- People need art/ art is good/ art saves lives in from of other local priorities
- False narratives of growth over short term
- Paternalization
- Short term thinking
- Assumption that poor people need art and refinement
- We discover then destroy
- Big promises and big expectations

Role of the Artist

- Co-opted for government ends
- Self harm and boundaries
- Risk taking behaviour (drugs/ alcohol)
- Lack of professional supervision
- Lack of training
- Isolation
- Workers rights/ labour issues/ underpaid
- Autonomy
- Alienation and disillusionment
- Trauma/ vicarious trauma/re-trauma
- Bad art/ mediocrity
- Low expectations
- Managing: skills/ emotions/ roles

Duty of Care and Consent

- Physical harm
- Emotional harm
- Risk assessment not compatible with creative
- Vicarious trauma/retrauma
- Communities form and create regardless
- Overly paternalistic about duty of care

¹ Kuddell, C. and Lyons-Reid, J. Get off my Back: an opinion piece, http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/art forms/communitypartnerships/opinion_piece accessed August 26, 2013.