

Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
IndigenousAffairs.reps@aph.gov.au

Bianca Beetson  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Submission to the Parliamentary inquiry into the growing presence of inauthentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 'style' art and craft products and merchandise for sale across Australia.

**Question 1 - How does Fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art effect you and your community? Why is it important to do something about this?**

It's violating our sacred rites, it personally makes us wild! Its shows a disrespect and a disregard of our culture. They do not understand the cultural value and significance of the artwork they are appropriating.

All they are doing is painting a pretty picture:, there is no story, no cultural value or knowledge, no connection, no tradition. It devalues the authentic work created by Aboriginal artists. The productions of works by non Indigenous persons who are employed by non Indigenous retailers, impacts on the Indigenous Visual Art industry as it decreases the value of their art and artifacts and significantly decreases employment opportunities within the Tourism and retail sectors. It's further add to It is stealing income from Indigenous artists including the loss of copyright and resale royalties. For many this income is all that is available to them other than the Basic Card (which is an abuse of Human rights). It continues to contribute to ongoing poverty and further widens the gap.

**Question 2 - Should the Federal Government change the laws relating to Fake Art? What changes do you suggest?**

The Federal Government needs to change the law relating to Fake Art. The changes must be enforceable and prosecutable. There must be a deterrent to selling fake art, such as introducing huge tariffs on the importation of Aboriginal inspired, style and appropriated art and artifacts eg. boomerangs made in China or Indonesia .

Prosecutable law against misleading labelling eg. \"aboriginal inspired\", \"authentic patterned\" (its misappropriation-call it what it is)

Redefine Cultural Intellectual property and copyright laws.

We must have an authentic inclusion in school curriculum's, including primary, secondary and tertiary schooling, which includes mandating Aboriginal art and cultural studies are only taught by Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people teach the protocols associated with the production of Indigenous visual arts as apart of this education process.

### **Question 3 - What can we do to better promote and support the creation of authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts?**

Consumer/retailer education programs must be implemented. Including TV campaigns and public transport posters.

Retailers of authentic art should be championed.

Educators (primary, secondary, tertiary) must be educated in authentic culture and the impact of misappropriation, and implement authentic protocols and principles in their learning and teaching environment.

The wider community need to learn how to recognise inauthentic art, what to do about it and where to report. And most importantly, where can you find authentic art. - Website of retailers who have gone through an authentication process.

lobbying to online retailers such as ebay, Amazon, Red bubble, Saatchi art, Blue thumb to make them change sales policy around selling fake art.

There needs to be authenticity labelling. This includes the removal of misleading labelling ie. aboriginal inspired.

There must be a publicity campaign that can be run on all incoming flights (particularly in view of the Commonwealth Games influx). This would mean inclusion in in-flight magazines, videos, airport posters. These should be multiple languages. This promotion should warn against purchasing inauthentic art. It should give clear direction to authentic art galleries and centres which are Aboriginal controlled eg Desart.com.au,

ANKAA.org.au

Aboriginal controlled major festivals such as Garma Festival, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and the Laura Festival should be promoted in tourist calendars.

### **Question 4 - What else can we do as a community to stop Fake Art?**

Artists themselves need to be educated so they are themselves are creating authentic art.

Artists need to take a proactive roll in educating the broader public about the issue.

We all have a personal responsibility, whether we are Indigenous or not, to call out fake

art and not support the makers of fake arts.  
Boycott fake art producers and retailers.

Who do we call it out to? Arts Law or Indigenous Art code. There is a need to establish an independent National Indigenous Arts Cultural Authority which must be Indigenous community driven. This would include representation on a State level.

Indigenous Art centres should be established in urban regions as retail centres for authentic Indigenous Art. As a community, there has to be a place for Indigenous artists to present their wares to the public, particularly the tourist market. It has to be easily accessible for both tourists and artists.

The transport/tourism industry /community should be proactive in educating clients/travellers about fake art/ authentic art. Employ Indigenous people throughout the entire industry so as to bring authenticity knowledge to the tourism industry.

#### **Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?**

There must be a brochure produced for the Commonwealth Games, explaining fake art and its impact.

Actively monitor and pursue the operators/importers of fake art.

A compliance system for retailers and education booklets/information on how to spot it and what you can do about it to be developed.

Establish National Indigenous Art and Cultural Authority (NIACA) to develop a symbol or mark to apply Authentic Aboriginal Art label. Membership or advice from NIACA should be free.

Education, retail and tourism sectors to be overhauled so as to protect authentic Indigenous Art.

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[REDACTED]

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