



PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

Exhibit 2

The content of this exhibit is in video format
please click on the link to view

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/
House/Indigenous_Affairs/The_growing_presence_of_inauthen
tic_Aboriginal_and_Torres_Strait_Islander_style_art_and_craft/
Videos.](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Indigenous_Affairs/The_growing_presence_of_inauthentic_Aboriginal_and_Torres_Strait_Islander_style_art_and_craft/Videos)

John Smith Gumbula: Hello, I'm John Smith Gumbula, a local Aboriginal artist. Welcome here to Jagara and Turubul country. I've been in the arts for over 25 years. I've travelled the world promoting Indigenous art and culture. One of the most important things, I believe, for us Indigenous people is the preservation of our culture, the connection that we have to the country. A very important part of that development, within our Indigenous economies, is our Aboriginal arts. It affects all Indigenous people, here in the country, regarding the production of fake Indigenous arts being sold, within our communities, within the markets here in Australia. It's seriously jeopardising our incomes and our livelihood.

Indigenous art is our fundamental right, as Indigenous people of this country, in preserving, promoting, engaging and creating opportunities for our people, for our families and for our community. It's not just about one state. It's not just about one community. It's about all of our communities and all of our Indigenous artists, out there, trying to make a better life. Putting these laws in place is something that would protect our people, protect our intellectual property, our lights, our culture. What's happening at the moment is cultural theft, plain and simple as that. The government needs to stand up and stop these rip-offs.

This is a very serious matter. The Fake Art Campaign is a very important campaign and, hopefully, it will be one of many other campaigns that will be contributing to our communities and culture for the future, for our kids and for our people. So I fully endorse this project and welcome all Indigenous leaders, and all Indigenous artists and people from all communities across the country, to stand up and speak out loud, to come together and solve this issue and protect our people. Create those bridges of positiveness and togetherness and work together and create a stronger Indigenous economy in this country.