



PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

Exhibit 5

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)

Bianca Beetson: Hi, I'm Bianca Beetson. I'm a proud Kabi Kabi woman and I'm the program director at the Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art degree at Griffith Uni., also known as the Queensland College of Art. This fake art business is important because it affects particularly my students, my graduates and all Aboriginal artists who are working in the sector in some way or another. It's not just about tourist art; it's broader than that. It also stops Aboriginal people from being able to earn a living, which they have a right to do. I believe that we've had a lot stolen already, and they're still stealing stuff from us. As well, it's about devaluing the work and devaluing our culture.

I think the government needs to tighten up legislation and maybe even create new legislation around protecting our artists and our artists' work. Yarn it to people: talk to your neighbour about it; talk to that person in the shop that's standing there about to buy the product. Take on a bit of a policeman role in a good way, because information and knowledge is really important; and educating people is really important. I know that I do try and play my part as far as making sure all students that graduate from QCA have a really good understanding about the impact of the fake art—using Indigenous art in design and all those sorts of elements without doing it through the proper process—can have on the industry.

Recently—very recently, actually—I've had my work used without my permission on a number of football jerseys. Being a contemporary artist, you don't expect that to happen. It can happen to us all. So it goes broader than just the tourism industry. Again, that's where the community and particularly our artists really need to be telling everyone about it and encouraging people. The website that Arts Front have got—they've got this really fantastic form that really helps make it really easy and simple and straightforward. When you read all the submission details, it can be quite overwhelming, and so to be able to put together what you know and what you think is right—and there's no right or wrong answer, as well. It's about putting your thoughts and how you feel that this is impacting on you as an artist or your community or the entire arts industry; put it down on paper and submit it.