



PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS**

Exhibit 8

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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)

Debbie Taylor: My name is Debbie Taylor. I'm a Gamilaraay woman. I work at Griffith University, at the Queensland College of Art, inside the department where we teach the Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art.

I think people have been getting away with it for far too long. Tourists are being ripped off, in actual fact. They think they're buying Indigenous art and they're not. But, at the same time, Indigenous artists are being ripped off, because they're not earning the income that they should be able to earn from displaying their culture and creating their culture.

My passion is education, but that's where there needs to be a lot of changes. Retailers need to be educated on the impact of their selling inauthentic Aboriginal art. Consumers and the general public need to be educated, and educators need to be educated. I find that a lot of young people going into teachers college or who have been teachers maybe for a long time, they're really not aware of what's going on in the art industry and yet they're in a perfect position to be able to spread the word to change the system, to change the way people think about Aboriginal art.

One of the other things that the government really needs to do is to have some sort of enforceable legislation: make it hard for people to produce inauthentic Aboriginal art, or to sell or market inauthentic Aboriginal art. It's far too easy to walk into any gift shop in the Queen Street Mall in Brisbane, for instance, and pick up inauthentic art, and yet it's not that easy to find authentic art. So the government really need to support Indigenous art as an income stream for our people, particularly when you think about regional and remote communities. This often is their only income stream, other than the BasicsCard, and we know that that leaves people in poverty. So they're losing their income. They're losing resale royalty rights and royalties from their designs being used. They're losing all those opportunities, and that's just not fair when that is what they're good at, that is their culture. They should be able to promote that, and have that market protected for them and for their use.

We have a personal responsibility to call it out when we see it, which is probably one of the other things that we need. Where do we go to? We see this stuff happening, we see people selling stuff that's inauthentic, so how does that get reported? Is there a governing body that can control this? Is there some sort of 'art police'—and not in a bad way, but in a really protective way? This is a very valuable market for Australia's economy. It's a very valuable market for the Indigenous community, and it needs to be protected.