

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
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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?

I used to travel overseas for work regularly until recently, making up to 90 flights per year in my employment of the time. In my travels i would see at every airport in Australia appalling, cheap and shoddily made \"art\" being passed off as artefacts of Aboriginal culture to unsuspecting international tourists and quite a few gullible local tourists. These cheap knock offs of a genuine art movement produced by an ancient culture cheapen or destroy the cultural value and reputation of locally produced cultural artefacts and art pieces as well as displace local producers and artists. Then there is the financial loss to local artists and producers. Money that could be used by indigenous artists and producers to support their families and communities is lost to overseas corporate bodies. Lastly there is the issue of respect for a people and their culture. If cultural artefacts are to be sold as representing a culture or a place then surely out of respect for that place and culture then those artefacts should be of that place and culture? Cheapening our shared heritage by allowing meaningless facsimiles of genuine cultural representations does not respect the culture that originated those representations and gives the impression that Australians as a whole do not value this culture, the art or the first nation peoples themselves.

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

Yes.

1. An outright and immediate ban on the sale or importing of items that are intended to represent Aboriginal cultural items that are produced outside of Australia.

2. Labeling of all artwork produced in Australia with;
 - a. The artists name,
 - b. The tribe the artist identifies with, and
 - c. The country the tribal group identifies with.

2.

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

1. Ban this overseas produced garbage masquerading as culture,
2. Grow a set and pass the goddam legislation.

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

Refuse to buy this rubbish and call out those who profit from the distribution and sale of forgeries that diminish and insult the oldest living culture on earth.

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

Yes. My utter contempt for the parasites that sell this rubbish. I\'d also like to note that the longer I type into this submission the angrier and less coherent I become.

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