

Hello

I would like to make a brief submission to this Inquiry please.

I would like to advocate for concerted and long-term development, support and promotion of Indigenous Australian tourism. I advise a focus on building the knowledge and interest of the domestic consumer market would be an effective long-term strategy and should be supported through school education, consumer awareness raising and incentives. Indigenous tourism offers Indigenous economic opportunity, cultural protection, reconciliation, ecological engagement and much more. Indigenous tourism could be better grounded by integrating culture, language, caring for country, native foods, events, arts and tourism for a holistic product that could be gained at no other destination in the global community. An Indigenous Academy for Culture, Tourism and Events similar to the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence could advance a holistic agenda and pull all stakeholders together. Such a strategy would decrease vulnerabilities of the international market and foster a domestic tourism sector that could be better integrated and sustainable. Garma's success has shown that such an example can gain national attention and long-term success. But what is missing is recognition that governments need to support this sector for a longer period, bring stakeholders together and foster a sustainable future through tourism and affiliated sectors. I have done research recently on native foods and it is clear the nexus between culture, ecology and tourism is full of unfulfilled and promising opportunities.

A thriving Indigenous Australian tourism sector enhances mainstream tourism and adds depth and breadth to the region's tourism offerings.

All the best

Freya

**Dr. Freya HIGGINS-DESBIOLLES**

<http://www.routledge.com/products/9781138824706>.

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