

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
IndigenousAffairs.reps@aph.gov.au

Leeton Lee

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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?

Fake art undercuts in price and in turn creates a market that authentic art cannot financially compete with. It also misleads customers on authenticity and our culture of art. As an indigenous artist myself ive seen all to many times not only customers go with the cheaper imitation options in purchasing items but approaching businesses to stock my products is difficult because they are aware of the profitability and faster turnover of offshore made products. Aside from this it is disrespecting our culture and devaluing our stories and art. We as people have had enough taken from us let alone to continue to be exploited.

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

Yes.

Bans on imports.

Heavy fines or imprisonment (that reflect the severity of the offence) for ANY business caught selling fakes,

A FREE Universal register for authentic Aboriginal/Torres Strait Artists to use a certificate of authenticity or brand or logo recognized in all states and territories
tv and radio ads to warn consumers and businesses of the proposed ban and consequences
signage on shops regarding authenticity and fakes

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

Supporting art mentoring programs, cultural programs.

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

Tv and radio advertising, signage in shops, education in any course involving copyright, intellectual property, business or importing. Name and shame businesses that ignore bans. Educating the public on the offense and cultural sensitivity

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

Should have been stopped years ago.

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