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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?

Its violating our sacred rites, it personally makes us wild! Its part of our culture. All they do are painting, there is no story ,no connection, no tradition. It is devalues the work of authentic Aboriginal art. The productions of works by non indigneous persons who are employed by non indigenous retailers, impacts on Indigenous Art industry and impacts on the local economy. It is stealing income from Indgenous artists including the loss of copyright royalties. For many this income is all that is available to them other than the Basic Card. It continues to contribute to ongoing poverty.

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

The Federal Government should definitely change the law relating to fake art. The changes must be enforceable and prosecutable. There must be a deterrent to selling fake art, such as huge tariffs on the importation of Aboriginal inspired artefacts eg. boomerangs made in China.

We must have authentic inclusion in school curriculums, including primary, secondary and tertiary schooling.

Prosecutable law against misleading labelling eg. \"aboriginal inspired\", \"authentic patterned\" (its misappropriation-call it what it is)

Redefine Cultural Intellectual property and copyright laws.

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

Consumer/retailer education programs must be implimented. Retailers of authentic art

should be championed.

Educators (primary, secondary, tertiary) must be educated in authentic culture and the impact of misappropriation, and implement authentic protocols and principles in their learning and teaching environment.

The wider community need to learn how to recognise inauthentic art, what to do about it and where to report. And most importantly, where can you find authentic art.

There needs to be authenticity labelling. This includes the removal of misleading labelling ie. aboriginal inspired.

There must be a publicity campaign that can be run on all incoming flights (particularly in view of the Commonwealth Games influx). This would mean inclusion in in-flight magazines, videos, airport posters. These should be multi-linguaged. This promotion should warn against purchasing inauthentic art. It should give clear direction to authentic art galleries and centres which are Aboriginal controlled eg Desart.com.au,

ANKAA.org.au

Aboriginal controlled major festivals such as Garma Festival, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair and the Laura Festival should be promoted in tourist calendars.

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

Artists themselves are educated so they are themselves are creating authentic art.

We all have a personal responsibility, whether we are Indigenous or not, to call out fake art.

Who do we call it out to? Artslaw- Indigenous Art code. There is a need to establish an independent National Indigenous Arts Cultural Authority which must be Indigenous community driven. This would include representation on a State level. Indigenous Art centres should be established in urban regions as retail centres for authentic Indigenous Art. As a community, there has to be a place for Indigenous artists to present their wares to the public, particularly the tourist market. It has to be easily accessible for both tourists and artists.

The transport/tourism industry /community should be proactive in educating clients/travellers about fake art/ authentic art. Employ Indigenous people throughout the entire industry so as to bring authenticity to the tourism industry.

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

There must be a brochure produced for the Commonwealth Games, explaining fake art and its impact.

Actively monitor and pursue the operators/importers of fake art.

A compliance system for retailers and education booklets/information on how to spot it and what you can do about it to be developed.

Establish National Indigenous Art and Cultural Authority (NIACA) to develop a symbol

or mark to apply Authentic Aboriginal Art label. Membership or advice from NIACA should be free.

Education, retail and tourism sectors to be overhauled so as to protect authentic Indigenous Art.

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