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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?**

Fake art undermines our culture and heritage. Fake art is not indigenous art - yet many Australians, tourists and overseas residents think it is. It misrepresents thousands of years of knowledge and arts practice held within indigenous communities.

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

Yes

It must be illegal to produce fake Indigenous art. Art without cultural connections or permissions is fake and not valid. It has to be withdrawn from the market place and punishments meted out to those that price it or profit from it.

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

More funding for artists and emerging artists is important.

Also education to the general pic to avoid fake art, to realise the value of authentic Indigenous art and that indigenous art is not necessarily dot paintings.

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

Educate everyone about the negatives and impact of fake art - not only on indigenous communities but for all of Australia. Is this what we want to showcase?

Have clear policies in place that makes it easy to shutdown fake art production.

**Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?**

This is an overdue and necessary campaign. Australia needs to back this and realise the value of our cultural heritage and our unique place within the world and the arts. Everyone needs to be proud of this!

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