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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?

My community is effected by fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art. We want to see and promote authentic culture, fake art does not allow for this. I want my children to see, learn and analyse art that is true and real to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This viewing of fake art can show incorrect symbols and messages that I don't want my family and community to be in a position of questioning its validity. Life long learning sharing culture is important for all communities it is a platform that allows for creative conversations and social connectedness.

My utter feeling of disgust felt by my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander friends should not be something anyone is faced with dealing with. Taking away cultural meaning and the financial gain from Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders should not be happening.

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

Yes the Federal Government should change the laws relating to Fake Art. I suggest a law that reflects a country that does not tolerate fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art to be sold or given or bartered for. I would suggest a phone/email/online chat hotline to report people or items/products that are in circulation. This problem could also extend outside of the country when fake artworks are being sold or distributed for tourists and the like.

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

To better promote and support the creation of authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander art we can actively not purchase fake art that is still on the market or circulating. We can actively encourage by word of mouth Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Artists that we know. We can actively post websites and facebook links to other Artists' pages in a positive community promotion. We can suggest these known artists to our local council for the Gifts approved lists when visitors or the like receive gifts from our local councils from time to time.

Our Government, local shire councils, big profiting businesses could provide financial avenues that support Artists in the creation of Authentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. Having local work for tourists to purchase. Having more artworks that can be sold to meet a demand for buyers.

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

As a community we can start conversations with friends and family about the concept of fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. This can then lead to more conversations and spreading the word about the current problem.

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

Arts workers like myself could be funded to provide scaffolding support levels for many individual artists and families to be ready to produce Artworks.

We should also be proactive about taking websites offline if they are selling fake art. We should be proactive about asking the questions at markets about where products are made or painted and who the Aboriginal or Torres Strait islander Artists are.

Let's stamp out these inappropriate and misleading products from our consumer market.

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