

Committee Secretary
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?

Working in an indigenous didgerdoo and art store in the NT we are directly affected by fake art undercutting the market, and selling potential buyers. They are appropriating the culture. If it's not okay for a white fella to paint aboriginal art and sell it, why should it be okay for a foreigner to do so legally in Australia?!

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

Yes! A guarantee or certification should be required for all Australian made items. This should be free for sellers who can provide proof that their items are authentic. International traders should be charged large import fees.

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

More awareness of the work and effort that does into indigenous art. So many people I meet just say "it's dots on a page". Greater public awareness would result in greater appreciation of the art form. Establishing outreach programs for correctional establishments and remote communities to provide them with the tools required to create their traditional art works.

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

#stopfakeart - name and shame campaigns.

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

Aboriginal culture should be cherished. Not sold to the cheapest maker

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