

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

Thomas Shillingford
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

26 September, 2017

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?

It affects all of Australia, not just my local community. Indigenous art/crafts should be representative of the culture and the stories of these great people. Anyone person or country attempting to make money off the back of another person's or whole culture's talent should be fined to the highest order of the law.

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

Arrest, seize assets, punish the culprits with custodial sentences. The Government needs to act swiftly and show that they do not take lightly to peoples, gangs, countries thinking they can get away with this blatant disregard for another group's culture by making money off them.

Perhaps if the government took the view it was one of their 'great white' artists who were getting ripped off they might actually do something about it.

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

More festivals and markets similar to Sunday's Blak Market at Barangaroo. Have notices', posters, postcards, any kind of promotional material in shops that sell indigenous arts and crafts so people are very aware and there's no room for doubt that there is fake art out there and what to look for to ensure you are buying authentic indigenous art.

Shops/outlets that sell ingenious art should require a certificate of authenticity.

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

Call out the shops, outlets or persons who sell the fake art. Ban these outlets selling indigenous art and make them publicly accountable for trying to profit of another cultures talent.

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

The government needs to act and act now. They need to realise this is a serious issue and should be treated like such.

Thomas Shillingford

[REDACTED]

26 September, 2017