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House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
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15 October, 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?

Fake Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander art reduces the integrity of true art and certainly something all Australians should protect, regardless of whether you understand art or not. Its a question of culture, of equity, and about the commercialism of something culturally significant to all.

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

Yes, the new law should ensure correct Indigenous protocols surrounding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art implemented. This includes training for all Primary generalist teachers; all sellers of Indigenous art and craft products; and prosecution for those promoting, selling or creating 'fake' art.

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

Education of the public including teachers, sellers and the general public across Australia. Currently, the university programs aren't strong enough in promoting correct Indigenous protocols.

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

Prosecute and create data bases where potential buyers can check the credentials of artists.

Question 5 - Would you like to add anything else?

I strongly support stopping fake art being produced in Australia.

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