

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 56

Program 2.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 01/11/2016

Topic: Fake Art

Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:

1. During the Estimates hearing I was advised that the Department would consult with the ACCC about ways to protect tourists and indigenous artists from the proliferation of fake “Aboriginal style” arts and crafts. When will this consultation happen?
2. What material is available to potential purchasers on how to establish that “Aboriginal style” arts and crafts are genuine? How and in what form is that material made available and how many people access it annually? Where is it available from? Is it only available online, or is it also available in print? When was that material last reviewed for relevance and accuracy?
3. What consultations take place with States and Territories in relation to this matter? When will this issue be raised with the states and territories again?
4. Is there any estimate of the legitimate income streams that are being denied Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and their communities that could be earned from selling authentic arts and craft works to consumers and tourists wanting to connect with Indigenous Australia?

Answer:

1. The Department, in consultation with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, is convening a meeting of relevant Australian Government agencies, including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), to discuss a more co-ordinated approach to dealing with inauthentic, predominantly imported, ‘Aboriginal-style’ products available at the tourist or lower end of the market.
2. A range of online resources are available for consumers. It is not known how many people access these:
 - (a) Published 2016 – Aboriginal Art Association of Australia, *Buying Australian Aboriginal Art* <http://aboriginalart.org.au/aaaa/buying-australian-aboriginal-art>
 - (b) Published 2016 – Indigenous Art Centre Alliance, Queensland, *About Art Centres* <http://www.iaca.com.au/about-art-centres>
 - (c) Published 2013 – Association of Northern Kimberley and Arnhem Artists (ANKA), *Purchasing Aboriginal Art Ethically* (this publication is also available in print) <http://ankaaa.org.au/publication/purchasing-aboriginal-art-ethical-buying-guide>

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- (d) Published 2014 – Aboriginal Art Centre Hub Western Australia, *Why buy from art centres?*
<http://www.aachwa.com.au/>
 - (e) Published 2013 – Aboriginal Art Online, *Buying Aboriginal Art Ethically*
<http://www.aboriginalartonline.com/resources/buying.php>
 - (f) Published 2010 – ACCC, *Your consumer rights: Indigenous art and craft*
<https://www.accc.gov.au/publications/your-consumer-rights-indigenous-art-and-craft>
 - (g) Published 2010 – Art Collector Australia, *Ethically sourcing Aboriginal art and how to be certain of provenance -*
<http://www.artcollector.net.au/EthicallySourcingAboriginalArt>
3. This matter was discussed with State and Territory officials at the *Meeting of Cultural Ministers Officials* on 3 November 2016. Future consultation with jurisdictions is subject to the outcomes of the meeting between relevant Australian Government agencies.
4. No.