



SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS, QC

Attorney-General

Minister for the Arts

Vice-President of the Executive Council

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

MA-SB2014/0884

Mr Ron Merkel QC
Chair
Indigenous Art Code Limited
c/- Clerk G, 205 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Merkel

Thank you for your letters of 12 August and 19 May 2014 and your previous correspondence enclosing the report by Indigenous Art Code Limited.

I note your recommendation that the Government investigate the implementation of a mandatory code for the Indigenous visual art industry on the basis of the problem of alleged unethical dealing in the industry, as well as the report's views about structural limitations experienced by the voluntary Indigenous Art Code. I have considered your proposal carefully, however have decided not to pursue alternative regulatory options at this stage.

Given the success of the Code in some areas of its operations, I would like to see it continue in its voluntary capacity to allow it more time to build on its strengths and to continue to generate positive change within the industry. However, I will keep the matter under review.

Thank you again for writing on this matter.

Yours faithfully

(George Brandis)