



ABORIGINAL IMAGINATION™



Re: Submission to Inquiry into Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft sector

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jason Davidson, my grandparents and family are among the 'Stolen Generation' of Aboriginal people who were subjected to the Australian governments assimilation policies that were experienced in the Northern Territory of Australia. I am in the early stages of my PhD Information Technology Philosophy at the Charles Darwin University, combining my artistic skills with Information Technology and developing a new business Aboriginal Imagination: www.aboriginalimagination.com.au

I am writing this letter in relation to Federal Government inquiry into Australia's Indigenous visual arts and craft. There is an urgent need for the government to seriously take on the punks who are ripping off Aboriginal Artists. Aboriginal art is now at a crisis point, if changes are not implemented the current path will lead to more ongoing problems and injustice for Aboriginal people. The continuation of being ripped off will lead to Aboriginal people resorting to violence as the final option.

There is a philosophy story that old people tell me about which relates to our life, our country and where we are from, when bad things happen to our country traditional owners can get very sick, when bad things happening to Aboriginal people the land can get sick. The life goes back into the ground. If the Australian government makes changes and improves relations with Aboriginal people the land can also become better.

Below I have listed areas of concerns that the Federal Government needs to take into consideration and act upon, you need to address all problems for the Aboriginal art industry:

- Aboriginal people need to be in control of Aboriginal art
- Aboriginal Art Businesses needs to be set up so that Aboriginal business operators can become independent from government support
- Aboriginal Artists need career paths
- Better networking opportunities for Aboriginal art business operators

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- Aboriginal people need to be able to produce art materials for artists to paint on, this includes framing artwork & stretching canvases
- Aboriginal art is a multibillion dollar industry that provides lots of jobs & wonderful career paths for many non-Indigenous people
- White people who work in the Aboriginal art industry are not educating Aboriginal artists, only allowing artists to paint... Ripped off...
- White crooked art dealers have 30 – 40 yr head start in Aboriginal art business
- Non-Indigenous people receive the majority of funding allocated for Aboriginal projects, investigate how many Aboriginal people get knocked back for developing Aboriginal projects
- Why do we have non-Indigenous Aboriginal art experts?
- Where are the Aboriginal art experts? They receive little acknowledgement.
- Selling artwork online, example you will find many crooks selling artwork on EBAY, who is monitoring these crooks on the Internet

If you have any questions you would like to ask then please feel free to contact me. I strongly advise the government to start working more with Aboriginal people so that we can resolve the problem, non-Indigenous people don't have all the answers.

Thank you for your time...

Regards,



Jason Davidson MA, PhD Candidate

Cc, Federal Government Canberra
Australia Council for the Arts
Northern Territory Research
Arts Law
Viscopy
Charles Darwin University
SBS

