Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

Hon Paul Fletcher MP

PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Ken.Wyatt.MP@aph.gov.au

Paul.Fletcher.MP@aph.gov.au

[INSERT DATE]

Dear Ministers,

I [INSERT YOUR NAME] of [INSERT YOUR TOWN OR SUBURB] support the Fake Arts Harms Culture Campaign. I support the introduction of stand-alone laws to protect Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (**ICIP**). I acknowledge Recommendation 8 in the September 2020 Federal Government response to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs – Report on the impact of inauthentic art and craft in the style of First Nations peoples – which calls for the commencement of a consultation to develop specific laws to protect ICIP.

While careful consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about the content of ICIP laws is needed and will take time, it is not necessary for the Government to conduct a scoping and feasibility exercise before consultation can begin. It is also a concern that during a protracted scoping and consultation process about ICIP laws, the harmful impact of the sale of fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts continues unabated. We need action and legislation now. The following inquiries and reports have already demonstrated why stronger protection is needed:

* Senate Inquiry into the Competition and Consumer Amendment (Prevention of Exploitation of Indigenous Cultural Expressions) Bill 2019
* House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs into *The growing presence of inauthentic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ‘style’ art and craft products and merchandise for sale across Australia* (2018)
* Senate Committee Report Indigenous Art- *Securing the Future Australia’s Indigenous Visual Arts and Craft Sector* (2007)
* R. Myer, *Report of the Contemporary Visual Arts and Craft Inquiry* (Myer Report), (2002).
* T. Janke, *Our Culture: Our Future Report* (1999).

It is essential we value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. While we can educate, inform and provide people with resources to do things better, it is not enough. As Federal Ministers of Australia we are calling on you and the Government to:

* **Amend the Australian Consumer Law to prohibit the sale of fake Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and craft**
* **Develop proper ICIP laws in full consultation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples**
* **Introduce laws to ensure fair licensing arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and communities.**

Kind regards,

[INSERT YOUR NAME AND/OR SIGNATURE]