



Marion Scrymgour
MINISTER FOR ARTS AND MUSEUMS

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Arts Minister draws line in the sand on Indigenous Art Carpetbaggers

Territory Arts Minister Marion Scrymgour today urged unscrupulous dealers in Indigenous art to clean up their act, or face “naming and shaming” under parliamentary privilege.

“The peak arts representative bodies, Desart and ANKAAA have released a commercial Code of Conduct which, as far as I am concerned, is the last chance unscrupulous dealers have to clean up their act,” said Ms Scrymgour.

“The industry is drawing a line in the sand when it comes to the protection of the many thousands of artists who benefit from it with the release of the Commercial Code of Conduct for the industry.

“This is very much aimed at those in the industry who seek to destroy it for quick term gain, those people—commonly known as carpetbaggers—who whether they recognise it or not are very much in the camp of enemies of our remote communities.

“What the industry is saying to the less scrupulous parts of the industry—and this has my wholehearted support—is that this is your last chance to get your act together.

“If you are not prepared to take the road of self regulation to sustain the Aboriginal arts and crafts industry; the road to external regulation is on the cards.

“I go further than that: this is my line in the sand.

“I would be prepared—in conjunction with my state and federal counterparts—to name and shame under the protection of parliamentary privilege the carpetbaggers whose actions threaten to destroy the industry.

“So none of you can say—at some later stage—you have not been given notice, this would be my intention if people do not clean up their act.”

Ms Scrymgour was speaking today at a symposium held by Desart in Alice Springs: *Art, money culture and community* which is being attended by artists, collectors, dealers and academics.

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