



Dealers. Protecting Indigenous artists and artwork

A Code of Conduct will help you to show you are ethical in your dealings with Indigenous artists and that you promote artwork properly.

How will this Code make it better for me?

If you agree to comply with the Code you will be seen as an art dealer who:

- Treats Indigenous artists with respect
- Values and cares about the reputation of Indigenous artists
- Upholds and protects the rights of Indigenous artists
- Protects Indigenous artworks and gives them proper recognition
- Ensures fair and prompt payment for Indigenous artists
- Helps to promote the wellbeing of Indigenous artists

How will the Code affect you?

1. Working with Indigenous artists

Before doing business with an Indigenous artist for artwork you must do the following things:

- Reach agreement with the artist** about how you will do business together that includes
 - if you are buying the artwork from the artist or selling it for the artist
 - if the artist is allowed to create artwork for other dealers or not
 - what artwork the artist will create and how long it will take
 - how the artist will be paid and when they will receive payment
 - how you will take care of the artwork and promote it
 - the artist's right to change their mind and what happens if they do
 - how the artist can complain if they have a problem
- Give the artist the agreement in writing**
- Give the artist a chance to understand the written agreement** and tell them they can ask for help

2. Paying Indigenous artists for artwork

When an Indigenous artist has given you artwork you **must**:

- Make sure the artist is paid** within a short time
 - If you buy the artwork you must pay the artist no later than 30 days
 - If you sell the artwork for the artist, you must pay the artist within 30 days from the day of sale

Indigenous Australian Art Commercial Code of Conduct

3. Promoting and protecting artwork

If you want to sell Indigenous artwork, you **must**:

- Make sure that the Indigenous artists and their artwork are given **proper recognition**
- Uphold the Indigenous **artist's rights** by respecting Indigenous cultural practices
- Care for the artwork** so that it is not damaged, destroyed or stolen

4. Keeping Indigenous artists informed

You **must** let the Indigenous artist know what is happening to their artwork and **keep them up-to-date**

- When it was sold and the price paid for their artwork

5. Doing the right thing by Indigenous artists

You must **do the right thing by the artist** which **means you will**:

- Let an artist have their say** about how they want to create artwork
- Tell the artist the whole story** about how you will do business with them
- Give the artist a choice** if they want to change the way they do business with you
- Give proper payment and **not give an artist alcohol, drugs or cars in poor condition as payment** for their artwork
- Not take advantage of an artist by **putting them in a situation against their will**
- Not use your position of power to **force an artist to do something they don't want to do**
- Not put too much **pressure on an artist to make artworks**
- Not **manipulate** an artist, **stand over** them, **bully** them or be a **thug**
- Not use documents an artist **can't understand**

6. Your reputation

- If you sign up to the Code you are saying that you are **ethical** in your dealings with Indigenous artists and that you **promote artwork properly**.
- Your compliance with the Code will be monitored and reviewed by an independent Code Administration Committee. You will be held **accountable** for your actions and can be removed as a signatory from the Code (with details published) .
- The Code sanctions will help maintain the **integrity** of the Code and uphold the **reputation** of the Indigenous art industry.

Becoming a signatory to the Code is an opportunity to show that you are ethical and reputable.