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The ACCC acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and future.

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MEDIA RELEASE

XX Month 2017

ACCC takes action against Birubi for alleged for alleged false, misleading or deceptive conduct

The ACCC has instituted proceedings in the Federal Court against Birubi Art Pty Ltd (Birubi), a national wholesaler of Aboriginal cultural objects and artefacts and souvenirs, alleging it breached the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) by misrepresenting the country of origin of its products and the involvement of Aboriginal Australians in the manufacturing of the products.

The ACCC alleges that, between date and date, Birubi made representations on its products that impliedly represented the products were made in Australia and that an Aboriginal person was involved in the manufacturing of the product, when the products were made in Indonesia. The products include Aboriginal cultural objects such as boomerangs, bullroarers, didgeridoos, and message stones and contained a combination of words and artwork that gave rise these allegations. Words included 'hand painted' 'Aboriginal Art' and 'Australia'.

"A boomerang that is made in Indonesia should not be passed off as made in Australia by an Aboriginal Australian. This not only harms consumers, but it demeans Aboriginal culture and denies economic opportunity to Aboriginal Australians whose cultural objects are being misused." ACCC Commissioner Delia Rickard said.

"We allege over 12,000 of these products were sold to shops in key tourist spots around Australia. With the Commonwealth Games in Australia this year it's important to ensure products purporting to be Aboriginal artefacts or using Aboriginal art are authentic."

The ACCC is seeking declarations, pecuniary penalties, injunctions, disclosure and compliance program orders, and costs.

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