

MEDIA RELEASE

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Asian music and movie importer raided in Sydney

The NSW Police, supported by investigators from Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) and Verifact investigators representing KCAB Korean Movies, raided the premises of Success Audio and Video of Anzac Parade, Kingsford in Sydney earlier today. Thousands of high quality counterfeit CDs and DVDs imported from Asia were seized in the raid.

The counterfeit CDs were being sold to unsuspecting customers for \$10 each and included Western titles from Nora Jones, Robbie Williams, David Bowie, Avril Lavigne, the Backstreet Boys and Michael Jackson. Asian movie and music titles were also seized. The raid followed separate investigations by MIPI and its Asian affiliate, IFPI in Hong Kong and Verifact on behalf of KCAB Korean Movies.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI said "Music piracy is a growing international problem, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. Australian music importers need to ensure that the music is legitimate and complies with the copyright laws of the country of manufacture – this is particularly the case when importing from countries like China and Indonesia, which have piracy rates above 85 percent. MIPI and its Asian counterparts will continue to work together with Australian law enforcement agencies and other copyright owners to effectively target pirate imports."

Ian Harvey, Executive Director of the Australian Music Retailers Association (**AMRA**) said "The importation of counterfeit music negatively impacts on legitimate Australian retailers. Many of our retail members cannot compete with the pricing of pirate operators who pay no royalties to artists or songwriters. This affects retailers' bottom line and ability to employ staff. Ultimately this has repercussions for Australian music consumers."

Jarrod Bowditch, Director of Verifact said "This is another substantial counterfeiting operation taken out of action by the Police. It will give the honest movie and music retailers a chance to succeed. We hope that the court will impose sentences that act as a deterrent to people who infringe the intellectual property of others."

Penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and 5 years imprisonment per offence. The owner of Success Audio and Video is being questioned by police.

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About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (www.mipi.com.au) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI members include large and small music labels through their association ARIA and singers and songwriters through their association APRA | AMCOS.