

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Back-to-back music piracy raids in Victoria**

24 hours after raiding a Brunswick music retailer and seizing thousands of Arabian music discs, the Victorian Police have dramatically done it again - this time netting thousands of allegedly pirate Greek music discs. A short time ago, the Victorian Police raided another music shop on the same street in Brunswick, forcing it to close its doors as they scoured the premises for pirate discs. Police have also removed extensive burning equipment from a back room burner lab.

The successful raid by Victoria Police marks the second consecutive strike in Operation Rein in the Rip Offs, which was launched this month by Music Industry Piracy Investigations (*MIPI*) to target unscrupulous retailers across Australia who are blatantly selling pirate music discs and ripping off consumers, songwriters, artists and legitimate music retailers.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI said "Only yesterday MIPI launched its campaign to crack down on rogue traders that are damaging the music industry and ripping off consumers by selling pirate music. Victorian Police have spectacularly conducted back-to-back raids on two premises and in the process taken thousands of pirate music discs off the street. The message is clear – deal with pirate music product and there will be severe consequences."

Ian Harvey, Executive Director of the Australian Music Retailers Association (*AMRA*) said "Many Australian music retailers are small family run businesses that simply cannot compete with pirates that are selling inferior music product at lower prices. AMRA welcomes action by MIPI and law enforcement to hold these pirates accountable."

Proactive criminal and civil enforcement action will continue across the nation as Operation "Rein in the Rip Offs" works to protect hard working songwriters, artists and small music businesses from those trading in stolen music. **Consumers are encouraged to report music piracy toll-free on 1800 06 16 16.**

The Brunswick store owner is currently assisting Victorian Police with their enquiries in relation to today's raid. Criminal penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and 5 years imprisonment per offence for individuals, and up to \$302,500 for corporations.

**Interviews:**

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**About MIPI**

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd ([www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au)) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI represents close to 125 music labels through their association, ARIA and over 1,700 music publishers and songwriters through their association, AMCOS.

MIPI operates a toll-free piracy hotline on **1800 06 16 16** and a report piracy form that can be accessed at [www.mipi.com/report.htm](http://www.mipi.com/report.htm).