

MEDIA RELEASE

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Crack down on karaoke piracy

MIPI today announced that it has obtained thousands of dollars in compensation from karaoke pirates. In late 2006, MIPI ramped up its comprehensive program of monitoring online auction sites for pirate karaoke music. A number of pirate karaoke sellers have been the recipients of letters of demand requiring payment of thousands of dollars for compensation for the sale of burnt karaoke CDs or DVDs.

One Gold Coast man, the seller of hundreds of pirate karaoke CD-Gs admitted that what he was doing was wrong and stated that it was not "worth it" given the compensation that he was forced to pay for his illegal activities and the termination of his eBay Australia account.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) today warned that "MIPI is targeting pirate karaoke discs as well as karaoke machines and jukeboxes loaded with pirate music" and stated that appropriate action will continue to be taken against any seller of pirated music products both online and in the physical sphere. "This will include demanding appropriate undertakings and compensation", Ms Heindl said.

MIPI has recently launched a *Guide to Using Music for Karaoke* to educate people in the karaoke industry about staying on the right side of the law. The Guide is available at MIPI's website at <http://www.mipi.com.au/Piracyinyourindustry.htm>.

Music piracy is of serious concern to the Australian music industry. The unauthorized copying or downloading of karaoke music whether from physical CD-Gs or the internet has a major effect on the karaoke industry. The makers of karaoke music, the composers, lyricists and all the other people involved in the karaoke industry are paying the price with less legitimate karaoke music being sold. People's livelihoods are affected. Honest karaoke jockeys (**KJs**) are being forced out of business because they cannot compete with the pricing of the pirate KJ. Furthermore, as a result of piracy there is less money to be invested in making new karaoke music, which ultimately means less music for the next karaoke gig.

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About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (**MIPI**) is an organisation that provides investigative and intellectual property right enforcement related services to the Australian music industry.