

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bankstown markets raided by MIPI and NSW Police

Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) yesterday assisted the New South Wales Police and a number of other intellectual property owners in a raid on Bankstown Markets in Sydney. The raid netted over 4,000 pirate optical discs and other intellectual property infringing items including handbags and health and beauty products.

The successful raid follows the implementation of a comprehensive market surveillance program by MIPI earlier this year in which MIPI operatives visit markets throughout all Australian States and Territories and seize pirate music product. In February 2007 a market seller was convicted of 11 criminal copyright offences and fined a total of \$22,000 for selling pirate music CDs and DVDs at Flemington Markets in Sydney.

As part of MIPI's commitment to educating market sellers and buyers, it has also recently launched the following commonsense guides:

- ❖ *Selling Music at Markets – Are You Doing the Right Thing?* educating market vendors about staying on the right side of the law; and
- ❖ *Buying Music at Markets – Are You Getting What You Pay For?* providing tips for market buyers so they can avoid getting ripped off with pirate music.

Both are available on MIPI's website at www.mipi.com.au.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI welcomed the assistance of the NSW Police in the raid and noted that "the co-operation between State Police and various intellectual property owners is spearheading effective and deterrent action against people who sell pirate goods in markets. While markets are a great place to get a bargain, consumers must be cautious not to get ripped off with inferior product."

Music piracy is of serious concern to the Australian music industry. Selling counterfeit and burnt music at markets threatens the livelihoods of the thousands of artists, songwriters, retailers, technicians, CD-plant workers, warehousemen, graphic designers, printers and other non-musicians who are employed in the music business helping to create and deliver the music Australian consumers listen to.

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About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (www.mipi.com.au) is an organisation that provides investigative and intellectual property right enforcement related services to the Australian music industry and engages in anti-piracy education in Australia. MIPI members include Sony BMG, Universal Music, EMI Music, Warner Music, APRA | AMCOS and many small Australian music labels.