

MEDIA RELEASE

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National songwriting competition encourages students to consider the ethics of illegal file sharing

SYDNEY – Music Industry Piracy Investigations (MIPI) is pleased to announce that for the first time, The Australian Children's Music Foundation (**ACMF**) National Songwriting Competition, which was launched in Sydney this week, will include a songwriting category dedicated to communicating the anti-piracy message.

The new category is entitled *Music For Free?* and ties in with the Commonwealth Department of Education's unit of the same name which explores the ethics of illegal file sharing and encourages students to respect artists' creativity.

"The ACMF National Songwriting Competition is a great opportunity for Australian students to explore their own creativity," said Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI. "The new *Music for Free?* songwriting category encourages students to spend time and energy communicating their feelings through a song and at the same time, to consider the ethics of others exploiting their hard work through the illegal downloading of music."

The National Songwriting Competition, which is in its sixth consecutive year, is open to every student in Australia. Entry to the competition is free.

The judging panel for this year's National Songwriting Competition includes Australian Idol judge and Vega 91.5 host "Dicko", Adam Spencer, Cameron McGlinchey from the Rogue Traders, Tim Freedman from The Whitlams. Winners from this year's competition will also have the opportunity to perform at the Sydney Festival in January 2009.

The National Songwriting Competition is open until September 2008.

For more information visit www.acmf.com.au.

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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 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.au/report_piracy/report.htm.