

MEDIA RELEASE

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No excuse for pirate DJs

A new licence for DJs to legally transfer music onto their laptops leaves pirate DJs with no excuses for using illegal music at their gigs, warned Music Industry Piracy Investigations (MIPI) today.

The new Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) DJ licence creates a one-stop shop for DJs to get permission from most major record labels to format shift their music for use at gigs. A corresponding licence is also offered for the musical works by the music publishers through AMCOS.

Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI stated "Widespread music piracy by DJs across Australia undermines the fabric of the music industry. If the people who rely on music to make a living are ripping it off, then what chance does the industry have to properly remunerate artists and songwriters?"

"Venues such as bars and nightclubs that employ DJs also need to ensure that DJs are not breaking the law and exposing them to legal liability by using pirate music" said Ms Heindl.

MIPI has relaunched its guide entitled "Music for DJs – Are You Doing the Right Thing" which is available at <http://www.mipi.com.au/Piracyinyourindustry.htm> to incorporate the new DJ licence.

Criminal penalties for DJs involved in music piracy are up to \$60,500 and 5 years imprisonment per offence. On-the-spot fines of \$1,320 may also apply. Owners or operators of bars or nightclubs may also be held liable for authorizing copyright infringement at their premises by allowing the DJ to use pirate discs or illegal MP3 files.

To obtain copies of the DJ licences: e-mail the ARIA licensing department at licensing.mail@aria.com.au and the AMCOS non-retail licensing department at nonretlic@apra.com.au. Further details are also available at the ARIA website www.aria.com.au.

Interviews:

Sabiene Heindl – General Manager, MIPI
Telephone: 0412 969 653

Media Enquiries:

Samantha Hales – Communications Manager, MIPI
Telephone: 8569 1177

About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (www.mipi.com.au) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI represents 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 is available at <http://www.mipi.com.au/report.htm>.