

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**8 May 2008**

**Victorian Police hook music pirate red handed  
- Fourth raid in four weeks -**

**SYDNEY** – A Northcote retailer was caught red handed burning music by the Victorian Police today during an afternoon raid. The retail store on High Street, Northcote was devoted exclusively to selling Greek music and police seized 3,500 allegedly pirate discs priced from \$10-\$25 each.

The raid was a result of assistance from the community and ongoing investigations by the Victorian Police and Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**), the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry.

“This is the fourth strike in as many weeks for the *Rein in the Rip Offs* campaign in which Victorian and New South Wales Police have seized more than 10,000 pirate music discs,” said Sabiene Heindl, General Manager, MIPI. “People that blatantly defy the law will suffer the consequences.”

*Rein in the Rip Offs* is a nationwide operation spearheaded by MIPI which targets unscrupulous retailers who are blatantly selling pirate music discs and ripping off consumers, songwriters, artists and legitimate music retailers.

On 3 and 4 April 2008, Victorian Police raided two Brunswick music retailers seizing thousands of Arabian and Greek allegedly pirate music discs in back to back raids. Just weeks later, New South Wales Police swept the Boot Hill markets of Campbelltown of another 1,000 allegedly pirate music discs including popular titles from Eminem, AC/DC, Black Eyed Peas and INXS.

**Consumers are encouraged to continue to report music piracy toll-free on 1800 06 16 16.**

A 58-year-old male is assisting Victorian Police with their enquiries in relation to today’s raid. Criminal penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and five years imprisonment per offence for individuals, and up to \$302,500 for corporations.

**For interviews with Sabiene Heindl, MIPI contact:**

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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.au/report\\_piracy/report.htm](http://www.mipi.com.au/report_piracy/report.htm).