

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Young People, Music and the Internet**

MIPI today launched the educational guide “Young People, Music and the Internet” in partnership with Childnet, the international non-profit organisation working to make the internet a safe place for children.

“Young People, Music and the Internet” provides parents with the essential facts about peer-to-peer networks (**P2P**), file-sharing and music downloading. It explains what P2P services are, outlines the security risks to children and the family computer as well as the benefits and gives practical advice on what is needed to help ensure that children’s enjoyment of music on the internet is safe and legal. The guide also gives advice on the rapidly expanding legal online sites where music fans can download music safely and legally.

Sabiene Heindl, the General Manager of MIPI, described the guide as an important tool for parents to understand the risks that file sharing presents to the large numbers of Australian children that are actively using P2P networks. “The guide highlights the fact that unwelcome content such as pornographic or violent images are accessible to children through P2P programs and that file sharing software opens “doors” into the family computer which can compromise privacy and security,” said Ms Heindl. “One study found that almost half of the software files on a P2P network contained viruses and spyware”, she continued.

“MIPI encourages Australian parents to take practical steps to talk to their children about file sharing, to check the family computer and embrace the multitude of legal download sites available in Australia,” stated Ms Heindl.

The Guide is available for download from MIPI’s website at [www.mipi.com.au](http://www.mipi.com.au).

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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.*