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## **POLICE SMASH VICTORIAN MOVIE PIRACY LAB** **Over 6,000 pirated DVDs seized**

Sydney: On 29 October, Victoria Police raided a residential premises in Moe in rural eastern Victoria, shutting down a large-scale illegal movie piracy lab, seizing over 6,000 illegal movie DVDs and computer equipment.

The Police raid of the Moe residence revealed 18 illegal DVD burners, five computers, seven printers and more than 6,000 pirated DVD movies, including illegal copies of "UP" and "The Proposal" which are currently being shown in Australian cinemas. The pirated DVDs were allegedly being sold locally for \$5 each. A 50-year-old male is assisting police with their inquiries.

Commenting on the operation, Neil Gane, Executive Director of the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT), said, "Movie piracy has become a highly-profitable racket for criminals, however, they are seriously deluding themselves if they think they can escape the law. The excellent work by the Latrobe local area command of the Victorian Police has today stopped this criminal operation in its tracks, and the suspected movie pirate will be held accountable for his actions. Movie piracy is not a victimless crime: It threatens community cinemas and DVD stores and the livelihoods of many Australians."

Penalties for copyright crimes are up to \$60,500 and/or 5 years jail per offence.

### **About AFACT**

AFACT works closely with industry, government, police and educational institutions to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the film and television industry as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

Australia's copyright industries are the 3rd largest contributors as a percentage of GDP in the world, second only to the US and UK.

In 2006/07 they contributed 10.3% GDP to Australia's economy [up 66% since 1996], represented 8% of our employment and generated 4.1% of total exports.

The film and TV industry in Australia alone contributed \$4.4 billion to GDP and supports 50,000 jobs, including small businesses under threat from movie and TV piracy, and independent cinemas, video rental stores and film and television producers across the country.

In 2007, the film and TV sector contributed an estimated \$1.8 billion in tax to the Australian Government.

In 2008, state and federal police conducted 51 raids involving movie piracy and seized 544,697 pirated DVDs. They also seized 488 burners capable of producing 12 million pirated DVDs a year with a potential street value of over \$61million.

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