



MEDIA RELEASE

13 August 2009

Australian convicted of running global piracy operation

MELBOURNE: A Victorian man appeared before Melbourne Magistrates Court yesterday charged with six serious offences relating to a global piracy operation. The charges follow Australian Federal Police raids targeting the illegal manufacture, distribution and sale of infringing music and movies.

The search warrants were the result of an international investigation involving UK authorities, the Australian Federal Police and investigators from Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) and the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (**AFACT**).

Investigations revealed Mathew Zore operated a sophisticated global illegal CD and DVD operation from Bentleigh East in Melbourne's outer suburbs. Amongst the illegal offerings were over 100 different Michael Jackson titles and blockbuster movies.

When Federal Police raided the home of Zore they found a haul of more than 7,000 infringing discs which were being sold around the world including in the UK and the US.

Dean Mitchell, Investigations Manager, MIPI, observed "Today's conviction reinforces the music industry's ongoing commitment to pursuing pirates and serves as a reminder that this type of conduct will result in criminal prosecutions."

"The movie and TV industries make a significant contribution to Australian jobs and our economy and need the protection of strong laws, effective enforcement and deterrent sentencing," said Neil Gane, Executive Director of AFACT.

Sentencing Zore, Magistrate Hawkins took into account his plea of guilty, recorded a criminal conviction and fined him \$24,000 plus prosecution costs.

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 2,000 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 <http://www.mipi.com.au/Report-Piracy.html>.

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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 copyright theft, 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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