



# AFACT

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

### **NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE UNCOVER PIRATE BURNER LAB IN WESTERN SYDNEY RAID**

Bankstown Police, together with Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT) investigators, raided the residence of a 56 year old woman in Sydney's West this morning seizing in excess of 1,000 pirated DVDs, multiple DVD-R burners, a computer and printing equipment.

The 56 year-old woman, an employee at a Riverwood supermarket, was allegedly selling pirated DVDs to colleagues and members of the public frequenting the supermarket, as well as selling them over the internet. The raid followed information received from members of the public.

'The Bourne Ultimatum' which only opened in cinemas throughout Australia today was one of the many new release titles being manufactured and offered for sale.

"Movie piracy hurts local businesses," said Adrienne Pecotic, Executive Director of AFACT. "Illegal DVDs sold out of a car, on the internet, at work or at the local market all directly affect legitimate businesses like the local suburban video store operator who provides employment and income to their community. As long as people continue to steal the property of our film industry and livelihood of our local businesses, we will pursue them."

Maximum penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 in fines and 5 years imprisonment per offence. Charges are expected to be filed against the woman next week.

In the past week NSW Police also raided a DVD retail premises in Sydney's western suburbs seizing over 3,000 pirated DVDs. A male and female were both charged with copyright offences.

#### **Piracy in Australia**

A recent independent report conducted by L.E.K. Consulting indicates that movie piracy cost the Australian film industry an estimated \$233 million in potential revenue in 2005. The illegal distribution of unauthorised copies of movies rose from 4% in 2000 to around 10% of the legitimate market in 2004. Police across Australia have more than doubled the number of illegal discs seized in 2004 compared to 2003. Discs comprise mostly DVD-R copies as DVD-R technology has increased its share of the pirate optical disc market. In addition Australian Customs seized over 40,000 pirate DVDs imported into Australia in 2004, a 185% increase compared to the 14,000 seized by Customs in 2003.

Police jurisdictions recognise organised crime involvement in film piracy. Organised crime links to movie piracy in Australia were first uncovered following a raid on Malaysia-linked movie pirates in 2002.

#### **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.

AFACT acts on behalf of the 50,000 Australians directly impacted by copyright theft including independent cinemas, video rental stores and film and television producers across the country. AFACT has its own anti-piracy hotline: 1800 251 996.

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