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## **\$15,000 FINE FOR SELLER OF ILLEGAL MOVIES**

*Police actions in Victoria and New South Wales shut down two piracy rackets*

Sydney & Melbourne: On 16 August, 35-year-old Ms Qunui Su from Lyndhurst was found guilty of multiple copyright crimes involving the illegal manufacture and sale of movie DVDs. She was fined \$15,000.

The conviction was the result of an extensive investigation by the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT) followed by a search warrant operation on 27 April 2010, when police raided the home and a shop operated by Ms Su at The Hub in Dandenong, seizing over 3,000 illegal movie DVDs and manufacturing equipment.

Neil Gane, the Executive Director of AFACT, said: "The significant fine and jail term for a person convicted of copyright crimes sends an unambiguous message to those contemplating acts of manufacturing and selling illegal movie and television DVDs that they will get caught, their actions prosecuted, and serious penalties applied."

In a separate action, on 25 August, detectives from the Moreland Tasking Unit supported by investigators from AFACT raided a retail store in Fawkner in north Melbourne, seizing approximately 2,000 illegal movie DVDs. Police discovered illegal copies of the movie *Vampires Suck*, which is scheduled to be released in Australian cinemas on 26 August. Other titles seized included box sets of popular television shows and illegal copies of *Step Up 3D* and *Killers*, which are currently showing in Australian cinemas. The movies were priced between \$5 and \$10 each, while the television box sets were priced at between \$15 and \$20.

It will be alleged that this business had been operating for the last two years. A male in his thirties and a female in her forties are helping police with their enquires.

In another unrelated incident, on 18 August, in Maitland in New South Wales, police raided a residential premises following an investigation conducted by AFACT. Over 3,000 suspected illegal movie DVDs were seized including recent movie titles such as *The Karate Kid* and *Toy Story 3*. They were allegedly being sold for \$8 each.

Central Hunter Local Area Command Crime Manager, Detective Inspector Jerry Bowden, said of the seizures: "Illegal piracy is certainly a problem that has been identified nationally. It is a difficult crime to detect, but one that comes with big penalties. Everyone would be well aware of the laws of illegal piracy, as it is explained almost every time you turn on a DVD. It is a crime that we do take very seriously."

Members of the community can provide information on movie piracy to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or AFACT by calling 1800 251 996.

Penalties for copyright crimes under the Commonwealth Copyright Act are a maximum of \$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.

In 2009, State and Federal Police conducted 69 raids involving movie piracy and seized 194,233 pirated DVDs. They also seized 749 burners capable of producing over 18 million pirated DVDs a year with a potential street value of over \$94 million.

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.

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