



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION AGAINST COPYRIGHT THEFT

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **COURT TAKES DVD COPYRIGHT THEFT SERIOUSLY - FINES MAN \$15,000 FOR 500 DISCS**

Sydney: On 24 March, at Burwood Local Court, Mr Kanaan Hussein from Bankstown was found guilty of copyright offences and fined \$15,000.

The sentence resulted from an incident on 24 April 2009 when New South Wales Police stopped a car and discovered just over 500 pirated movie DVDs in the vehicle. Movie titles seized included multiple copies of *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Ghost Town*, and *Wanted*, which had not been legitimately released on DVD in Australia at the time.

Neil Gane, the Executive Director of the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT), said: "Thanks to excellent work by the New South Wales Police, illegal DVD operations are being effectively shut down, cutting off the supply of illegal discs to movie pirates operating at weekend markets, and helping to protect jobs and honest, hard-working local businesses."

Courts are getting tougher on copyright offences and those profiting from this crime increasingly risk serious penalties including jail time. In 2009 courts in New South Wales handed down four custodial sentences for movie copyright offences.

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.

### **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 \$94million.

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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