

Media Release



26 August 2005

ID Crime Taskforce charges Sydney man

Dozens of forged identification documents - with links to an overseas criminal syndicate - were seized by authorities during raids in Sydney today.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and NSW Police raided properties in Waterloo and Kingsford this morning, seizing ten forged Australian and foreign passports, a quantity of forged Australian visas and migration arrival stamps, Medicare cards, NSW driver licenses, and blank NSW birth certificates.

Computer disks containing high quality templates that could have been used to reproduce the fraudulent documents and more than fifty stolen cheque books were also seized.

The Identity Crime Task Force (ICTF) arrested and charged a 34-year-old Waterloo man with a number of Commonwealth and State identity crime offences, including contravention of the new *Australian Passports Act 2005* which came into force on 1 July 2005, imposing tougher penalties for passport fraud, with jail terms up to 10 years and fines up to \$110,000.

Police allege the man possessed stolen genuine passports and fraudulently obtained Australian visa and citizenship documents, opened bank accounts in false names and fraudulently operated those accounts. It is also alleged the man stole authentic identification and assumed the stolen identities in addition to fabricating new identities which were compiled in 'identity kits'.

The ICTF was established in June 2003 and consists of members of the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police, Australian Crime Commission, Australian Customs Service and the NSW Crime Commission.

The man was refused bail and is due to appear at Parramatta Bail Court tomorrow, Saturday 27 August 2005.

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Media Note: A doorstep and an opportunity to film/photograph the seized documents and equipment will take place tomorrow (27 August) at 11am at the AFP's Sydney Office located at 110 Goulburn Street Sydney.