

Media Release



Thursday 23 February 2006

28,000 counterfeit goods destroyed

More than 28,000 counterfeit goods seized by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Queensland Police were destroyed today in Brisbane.

The items included 20,000 pirated CD's, DVDs and Playstation games and over 8000 imitation 'brand name' sunglasses, caps, items of clothing and fashion accessories.

The counterfeit goods were seized during a number of Queensland based investigations involving the AFP, the Queensland Police and industry partners.

The investigations commenced after the discovery of a large number of counterfeit goods by the Toowoomba Criminal Investigation Bureau during an unrelated investigation.

A large percentage of the items seized are believed to have been produced or imported to be sold illegally at weekend markets around Brisbane.

The fake brands comprised of Oakley, Louis Vuitton, Quicksilver, Prada, Versace, Ralph Lauren, Nokia, Valentino, Calvin Klein and Ray Ban.

Australian Federal Police Co-ordinator for Economic and Special Operations (Brisbane) Greg Harrigan said there were a number of agencies in law enforcement and within private industry that were working together to combat crimes involving copyright and trademark theft.

"The AFP's role in combating intellectual property offences is focused on the serious organised crime aspect of this illegal trade," Federal Agent Harrigan said.

"Buying and selling pirated (also known as counterfeited) video games, CDs or clothing items can attract a penalty of between two and five years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$55,000.

"Australian consumers need to be aware of the repercussions of often unwitting involvement in piracy. The AFP warns people against buying and selling pirated games, CDs, DVDs or clothing as they may be committing a criminal offence and end up prosecuted," he said.

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