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## **Music industry professionals agree: change private copying laws**

“Music copying happens. It’s time to support the view that the simple, elegant solution is to give the public the right to copy for their private purposes and to provide for payment for that copying by imposing a blank CD levy that is distributed back to music creators and copyright owners,” say Brett Cottle, CEO of the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) and Ian James, Chairman of the Australian Music Publishers Association Ltd (AMPAL).

APRA collects and distributes royalties to composers, songwriters and music publishers. It licenses radio and television stations for their broadcast use of music. It also licences concert promoters, cinemas and venues that provide any form of live or recorded music. The licence fees are distributed to writers and their publishers around the world, based on survey data provided by licensees.

Cottle was commenting on the findings on the recent “Music – The Business, Law & Technology Report” conducted by IMMEDIA! At the 6<sup>th</sup> Australasian Music Business Conference.

Of the 200 artists, managers and record company staff who anonymously responded to the survey, over three-quarters owned CD burners and almost half used them to illegally burn copies of CDs they had purchased. A large majority – 81 percent – believed that the Copyright Act should be changed to allow personal copying of purchased CDs (but not borrowed or downloaded music).

“Even music industry professionals recognize there is a need to extend private copying rights. It’s time to do away with the fiction that private copying is unlawful and doesn’t occur, and to support the payment of a built-in royalty through a blank CD levy,” said Cottle.

Simon Lake, Chief Executive of Screenrights, supports Cottle’s comments. “Most Australians would be shocked to know using your VCR to record programmes is illegal,” he said. “How can the law be so out of practice with the reality of what is happening in virtually every living room in every house in Australia? The government has to catch up with the reality that the law is out of step and needs to be changed to enable copyright holders to get fair payment and for Australians to be able to copy legally for their home use.”

Screenrights is a non-profit organisation that links rightsholders in film and television to the people who use their work.

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**For details of the copying scheme visit [www.screen.org](http://www.screen.org)**