



# Copyright collecting societies

February 2006

In this information sheet, we give a brief overview of copyright collecting societies. We explain their function and purpose, and we outline the type of licences offered or administered by the main collecting societies in Australia.

For information about our other information sheets, other publications and training program, see our website <http://www.copyright.org.au> or contact us (see contact details at the bottom of the page).

**The purpose of this information sheet is to give general introductory information about copyright. If you need to know how the law applies in a particular situation, please get advice from a lawyer.**

A Copyright Council lawyer may be able to give you free preliminary legal advice about an issue not addressed in an information sheet. This service is primarily for professional creators and arts organisations but is also available to staff of educational institutions, libraries and governments. For further information about the service, see <http://www.copyright.org.au> advice or our information sheet *Australian Copyright Council: who we are, what we do*.

We update our information sheets from time to time. Check our website to make sure this is the most recent version.

## What copyright collecting societies do

Copyright collecting societies are not-for-profit organisations which license or administer certain uses of copyright material on behalf of their members (who are copyright owners). The licence fees collected are distributed to members.

Some collecting societies also collect and distribute fees under “statutory licences”. These are set up within the Copyright Act, and allow use of copyright material for certain special purposes – such as copying by educational institutions or governments.

Most of the collecting societies listed below have reciprocal relationships with collecting societies overseas. This means that an Australian collecting society is generally able to license the works of Australian copyright owners as well as the works of copyright owners who are members of, or affiliated with, overseas collecting societies with which it has agreements.

## Copyright Agency Limited (CAL)

Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) licenses the reproduction of works owned by its members (generally authors, journalists and publishers) and members of overseas affiliated reproduction rights organisations. It offers copying licences to corporations, not-for-profit organisations and associations, churches, libraries providing commercial document delivery services and media monitors.

In addition, CAL is the declared collecting society for the reproduction and communication of works by educational institutions under the statutory licence set out in Part VB of the Copyright Act, and for the reproduction and certain communication of works by governments under the statutory licence in section 183 of the Act. For more information about these statutory licences, see our information sheets, *Educational institutions* and *Government (Commonwealth, State and Territory)*.

CAL's contact details are:

Level 15, 233 Castlereagh Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Tel: (02) 9394 7600  
Fax: (02) 9394 7601  
Website: <http://www.copyright.com.au>

## **Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA)**

Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA) administers the rights of public performance and communication to the public of music and lyrics for composers, music publishers and other copyright owners. In particular, it provides licences for live and recorded music and lyrics to be performed publicly, for example in pubs, clubs, restaurants and shops, and also licenses radio and TV stations, webcasters and organisations playing music on hold. APRA can also assist in identifying and finding owners of copyright in music and lyrics.

For more information about licences granted by APRA, see our information sheet, *Music: playing music, APRA & PPCA*.

APRA's contact details are:

Locked Bag 3665  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
Tel: (02) 9935 7900  
Fax: (02) 9935 7999  
Website: <http://www.apra.com.au>

## **Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners' Society (AMCOS)**

AMCOS, licenses certain recordings of music and lyrics (such as cover versions of songs which have already been released), and photocopying of sheet music and recording of music by schools on behalf of music publishers. It also licenses, in conjunction with the Australian Record Industry Association (ARIA), the reproduction of music and recordings onto the soundtracks of videos (such as videos of weddings and home videos).

For more information, see our information sheets, *Music: use in film and multimedia* and *Music: use in student films & home videos*.

AMCOS is administered by APRA. AMCOS' contact details are:

Locked Bag 3456  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
Tel: (02) 9935 7900  
Fax: (02) 9935 7999  
Website: <http://www.amcos.com.au>

While APRA and AMCOS remain independent companies, following an agreement reached on 1 July 1997, – APRA manages the affairs of AMCOS and both organisations' staff and offices have been amalgamated.

## **Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA)**

Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA) licenses the public performance of sound recordings on behalf of the copyright owner of sound recordings (generally the record companies). For instance, it licenses the public performance of sound recordings (which are protected separately from any music and lyrics on the recording) to pubs, clubs, restaurants, shops, radio and TV stations. We understand it is now also offering licences for online uses of sound recordings.

For more information about licences granted by PPCA, see our information sheet, *Music: playing music, APRA & PPCA*.

PPCA's contact details are:

PO Box Q20, Queen Victoria Building  
Sydney NSW 1230  
Tel: (02) 8569 1100

Fax: (02) 8569 1183  
Website: <http://www.ppca.com.au>

## Screenrights (formerly the Audio-Visual Copyright Society Limited)

Screenrights administers the statutory licences which allow educational institutions to copy and communicate, and governments to copy, material from radio and television on behalf of film producers and distributors, script writers and music copyright owners. Screenrights may also be able to help with identifying and finding copyright owners of audiovisual material.

For more information, see our information sheet, *Educational institutions*.

Screenrights' contact details are:

Level 3, 156 Military Road  
Neutral Bay NSW 2089  
Tel: (02) 9904 0133  
Fax: (02) 9904 0498  
Website: <http://www.screen.org>

## VISCOPY

VISCOPY licenses the works of Australian visual artists, including craft workers, photographers and designers.

VISCOPY's contact details are:

45 Crown St  
Woolloomooloo NSW 2011  
Tel: (02) 9368 0933  
Fax (02) 9368 0899  
Website: <http://www.viscopy.com>

## Christian Music Licenses

Many Christian music publishers are not members of APRA, so you will need to obtain a licence from one of their collecting societies to reproduce or perform copyright material. The main collecting societies are:

### Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)

CCLI is an international organisation originating in the USA, which licenses rights over Christian music published by its members and provides a range of worship resources.

CCL Asia-Pacific Pty Ltd  
PO Box 6644  
Baulkham Hills Business Centre NSW 2153  
Tel: (02) 9894 5386  
Toll free: 1800 635 474  
Fax: (02) 9894 5386  
Website: <http://www.ccli.com.au>

### Mediacom/LicenSing

MediaCom is an Australia–New Zealand organisation which licenses rights over Christian music published by its members (LicenSing) and provides a range of worship resources.

14 Eton Rd  
Keswick SA 5035  
Tel: (08) 8371 1399  
Toll free: 1800 811 311  
Fax: (08) 8297 8719  
Website: <http://mediacom.mediacomonline.org.au>

## Word of Life International

Word of Life International is a copyright collection organisation for religious music. It operates in Australasia and the South Pacific.

PO Box 345  
Mirboo North VIC 3871  
Tel: (03) 5664 9245  
Fax: (03) 5664 9249  
Website: <http://www.freelink.com.au>

## Report on copyright collecting societies

For background information about collecting societies, see Shane Simpson, *Review of Australian Collecting Societies*, A Report to the Minister for Communications and the Arts and the Minister for Justice, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia, 1995. The report is available on the website of the Department of Communications and the Arts:

[http://www.dcita.gov.au/ip/publications/ip\\_publications/the\\_simpson\\_report\\_review\\_of\\_australian\\_copyright\\_collecting\\_societies](http://www.dcita.gov.au/ip/publications/ip_publications/the_simpson_report_review_of_australian_copyright_collecting_societies).

## Voluntary code of conduct for copyright collecting societies

The collecting societies adopted a voluntary code of conduct as of 1 January 2002. The code deals with such matter as the distribution of remuneration and licence fees, expenses, governance, accountability, complaints and disputes. Copies of the code are available from signatory collecting societies and on CAL's website:

[http://www.copyright.com.au/code\\_of\\_conduct.html](http://www.copyright.com.au/code_of_conduct.html). A report commissioned by the Commonwealth Attorney-General on the collecting societies' compliance with the code is available at [http://www.copyright.com.au/reports\\_papers/Report\\_Final\\_26.9.03.pdf](http://www.copyright.com.au/reports_papers/Report_Final_26.9.03.pdf).

## Further information

For further information about copyright, see our website—<http://www.copyright.org.au>—or contact us.

Information from the Arts Law Centre of Australia may also be of interest to you: see <http://www.artslaw.com.au> or telephone (02) 9356 2566.

## Reproducing this information sheet

You may download and print one copy of this information sheet from our website for your reference; you may also purchase a printed copy from our online shop—<http://shop.copyright.org.au>—or direct from us.

## Australian Copyright Council

**The Australian Copyright Council is a non-profit organisation whose objectives are to:**

- assist creators and other copyright owners to exercise their rights effectively;
- raise awareness in the community about the importance of copyright;
- identify and research areas of copyright law which are inadequate or unfair;
- seek changes to law and practice to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of copyright;
- foster co-operation amongst bodies representing creators and owners of copyright.



Australian Government



*The Australian Copyright Council has been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, through its Policy, Communication and Planning Division.*

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