



<http://www.pirateparty.org.au>

PO Box Q1715
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1230

Fax: +61 2 8088 1346

**Monday, 14 December 2009
For Immediate Release**

South Australian Branch of the Pirate Party Australia Calling for Membership!

"With the current government attempting to implement an internet censorship regime, continuing secretive ACTA negotiations and an increasingly belligerent war on sharing, here and across the globe - it is now more important than ever that we work to protect our civil liberties, and our democracy." - David Crafti, President of the Pirate Party of Australia

The South Australian branch of the Pirate Party Australia is pushing to increase their local membership in preparation for the upcoming state election expected March 2010.

To register as an official Pirate Party branch in South Australia with Electoral Commission SA (ECSA), the party needs to increase its local membership to at least 150. Members must sign and send in their application forms, along with their \$20.00 Founders Fee, which will cover the cost of incorporation, registration, and other ongoing costs.

With the assistance of founding members the Pirate Party will be one step closer to providing South Australians with the option to vote 'Pirate' in the upcoming State election. The Pirate Party fights for a fairer and more balanced copyright; encourage innovation and access to culture, information and knowledge, greater government transparency and the protection of our civil liberties. South Australia is a key state for Pirate Party policy regarding censorship, especially the lack of an R18+ video game rating and the recently passed legislation banning the promotion of R18+ movies. The state was also the first to introduce unjust anti-association laws.

As South Australia is the first state coming up for election in 2010 it will also be the first to launch a local Pirate Party branch. Although this election won't occur until early next year, an effective campaign forces us to achieve our required membership numbers this December 2009. The first public SA Chapter meeting will be held **Thursday 17th December 6pm** at the **Union Cinema, Level 5 Union House, Adelaide University**.

Those interested in our policies can make a contribution by:

- **Join!** Become a founding member of the Pirate Party Australia by registering at <http://pirateparty.org.au/join>
- **Publicise!** Anyone can help increase awareness and encourage membership. For the Pirate Party to gain public support, it needs as much exposure of its policies and goals to the citizens of Australia. Everyone can play a crucial role by informing their friends, co-workers, family, and other like-minded individuals about the party.
- **Get involved!** We need pro-active members to assist with our SA campaign. To get involved contact the SA Pirate Party Coordinators via our website below and attend the meeting.

For more comprehensive information on the Pirate Party Australia, its platform and policies, please visit the SA website at <http://sa.pirateparty.org.au>

Media Contacts:

For any media related queries, please contact the SA Spokesperson Andrew in the first instance.

Andrew Glancey, Acting SA Spokesperson 0405 523 288

Michael Hill, Acting SA Media Relations 0402 568 250

About the Pirate Party Australia

The Pirate Party Australia a forming political party, currently seeking membership for the purposes of registration with the Australian Electoral Commission and intends to contest the next Australian federal election if successful.

Pirate Party Australia has an interest in reforming legislation and policy surrounding culture, innovation and the protection of civil liberties, with sister organisations fully registered, seeking registration or otherwise active in over 35 countries throughout the world. The Swedish Piratpartiet have two elected sitting Members of the European Parliament, after the 2009 European Elections, in which they attained 7.1% of the vote.

Why the name 'Pirate Party'?

We know it sounds ridiculous, but the name has roots in an international movement. A political party called the 'Pirate Party Sweden' was founded in 2006 primarily as a response to the freedom and copyright issues surrounding the banning of 'The Pirate Bay' website. Since then it has become the 3rd largest political party in Sweden and holds two seats in the European Parliament.

Whilst the issues affecting Australia differ from Sweden, Pirate Party Australia is rooted in the same principles of civil liberties protection. We seek to stop governments and media corporations from infringing Australians' rights in the digital economy.

What are your main policy areas?

We aim to protect civil liberties and promote culture and innovation, primarily through:

- ✓ Opposition to internet censorship
- ✓ Protection of privacy rights
- ✓ Protection of freedom of speech rights
- ✓ Decriminalisation of non-commercial copyright infringement
- ✓ Support for an R18+ rating for games
- ✓ Reforming the 'Life+70 years' copyright length
- ✓ Providing parents with the tools to run their own families.

FAQ

[Are you a joke party?](#)

No. We have a serious platform of intellectual property law reform and protection of privacy rights and freedom of speech.

[Are you a single-issue party?](#)

No. We don't have fully developed policies on all issues, however we do have policies on intellectual property and civil liberties. We are specifically avoiding making policies that could fracture our member base, which is why you won't see us with an education policy, even while our members tend to be highly educated. We feel that intellectual property and civil liberties are broad enough topics, which encompass such issues as Internet censorship and three strikes legislation.

[I download movies and music from time to time. Does that make me a criminal?](#)

Yes. Unfortunately, the government considers you a criminal. That is the main reason we are here. We don't think you should be considered a criminal, so one of our main policies is to decriminalise non-commercial copyright infringement.

[Do you think that commercial copyright infringement or patent infringement is ok?](#)

No. Our position is that companies should pay for the use of copyrighted works and patented designs.

Why don't you think that intellectual property should be treated the same as real property?

Real property is something that you can touch. In simple terms, if one person possesses it, another person cannot possess it at the same time. Intellectual property is information. If a person makes a copy of a song, the person who owns the original is not deprived of the song.

Why are you against copyright?

We are not against copyright as a concept. We are against the current implementation of copyright. In the natural world, there is no protection that allows a person to claim a monopoly on an idea. Society has created the notion of copyright in order to promote creativity. The creativity that is promoted is not solely for the financial gain of those who produce new ideas; it is for the benefit of the society's culture. Copyright typically lasts for 70 years past the death of the author. We see this as ridiculous. Also, the length of copyright has been changed several times so that almost nothing has fallen out of copyright for the last several decades.

Do you support abolishing intellectual property entirely?

No. We believe that the original goals of intellectual property protections, which are to promote creativity and invention, are reasonable. We don't believe that prosecuting non-commercial file sharers for copying a song from the 1940s is reasonable, however.

Aren't 'pirates' swashbuckling miscreants and thieves? Does this mean you support copyright infringement?

Pirate Party Australia, in no way advocates the illegal duplication and distribution of copyrighted materials, or the breaking of any other laws, especially those of the high sea. We aim to work within the system to change the law so that acts such as sharing of music for personal use is no longer considered illegal.

Copyright is an abstract concept. It is a monopoly constructed by law to control creative works. We recognise that it is necessary for the creator of a work to assert a degree of control for a limited time, and to receive attribution, however we disagree with the degree and length of control that the law currently allows. It now acts to constrain innovation, rather than foster it, and has led to the criminalisation of an entire generation who share knowledge, culture and information freely and for no monetary gain. There has been a movement by proponents of copyright towards the erosion of civil liberties.