



**MEDIA STATEMENT
RE COPYRIGHT TRIBUNAL DECISION
ON LICENCE FEES FOR NIGHTCLUBS/DANCE PARTIES**

Thursday, 12 July 2007

Fitness Australia, the peak national body representing the fitness industry, today said that it was awaiting legal advice about the Copyright Tribunal's decision yesterday to increase fees to nightclubs and dance parties but that it was evident that the use of music in fitness centres was entirely different to nightclubs.

"Our lawyers are examining the Tribunal's decision but clearly we will argue that there are major differences between the value that music delivers to night clubs versus fitness clubs. People come to fitness centres to exercise and stay healthy, the music is incidental," said Laretta Stace, Chief Executive of Fitness Australia.

The Copyright Tribunal is expected to consider a request by the Phonographic Performance Company of Australia (PPCA) to increase licence fees from 94 cents a fitness class to anything up to \$31.67 a class.

"We cannot comment on the merits of the fee increase in relation to the night and dance club industry but we certainly don't believe it is applicable to our industry.

"Furthermore, similar fee hikes would force consumers to look at other forms of exercise and have such a devastating impact on our members' business that they would have no alternative but to look to other appropriate, less costly sources of music. That is probably not such an attractive option for night clubs or dance party organizers, but it is certainly available to our members and is a contingency that they're already actively evaluating," said Ms Stace.

For further information:

Laretta Stace: (02) 8338 3000

Gabriel McDowell: (02) 8252 7090 mobile: (0417) 260 918