



ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Media Release

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Advisory Council calls for input to help Australian inventors

The Advisory Council on Intellectual Property (ACIP) today released an interim report outlining measures to assist inventors to enforce their rights.

ACIP Chair, Mr Leon Allen, said the report outlines a number of proposals and reform directions in relation to patent rights enforcement.

Proposed reforms include introducing legislation to allow Australian Customs officials tipped off about an infringing shipment to seize goods at the border.

Strongly recommended was the establishment of an IP dispute resolution centre in Australia. The proposed centre would provide a validity and infringement opinion service and administer a register of independent experts with suitable qualifications to provide mediation services and preside over a non-binding patent tribunal.

The centre would function in a similar way to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center.

Other proposals include providing public access to information on the outcome of all court actions relating to patents and encouraging and assisting countries in the region to improve their patent enforcement systems. This last initiative is designed to help Australians protect their goods and services when exporting.

"The call for submissions provides a valuable opportunity for interested parties to contribute to ACIP's final reform recommendations," Mr Allen said.

"I encourage inventors and stakeholders to provide evidence-based submissions and share their views," Mr Allen said.

ACIP anticipates a final report will be submitted to the Australian Government in late 2009.

Information on how to provide submissions along with the released proposals in the ACIP interim report can be found on the ACIP website at www.acip.gov.au

Media Contact: Leon Allen, 03 9254 2777