



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAFFITI ON THE RISE

As the warmer weather starts to hit across parts of Australia, so do the many vandals whose lack of respect for others in the community is costing hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

That is the message from national community not-for profit, Graffiti Hurts – Australia after a weekend that saw; more than \$20,000 worth of damage in one incident, a person with a possible broken pelvis and a local council sponsoring and paying an overseas vandal to visit a capital city to undertake vandalism that could see local businesses fined if they get ‘tagged’ after this sponsored event.

Scott Hilditch, CEO of Graffiti Hurts – Australia said ‘we are concerned that we could be in for one of the worst Summers this country has seen regarding graffiti vandalism if current trends continue and if the community doesn’t become active in helping local councils, public transport operators and the police tackle this blight head on.’

“The past weekend saw a worrying sign, in our eyes, with a 25 year old in hospital with a possible broken pelvis after being involved in graffiti vandalism in South Australia, an 18 year old caught causing over \$20,000 damage to a heritage building in Sydney, over a dozen small businesses vandalised in Newcastle by a minor and this is only what we know of” said Hilditch.

Graffiti Hurts – Australia reminds the community that the issue of graffiti vandalism is not a government, public transport operator or industry issue, it is a social and community issue that we all need to be active in helping to reduce.

The Graffiti Hurts – Australia website has a range of resources for the community to use in helping reduce and eradicate graffiti vandalism as well as resources for local governments, service and neighbourhood watch groups as well as industry and small businesses.

“Graffiti vandalism has more effects than just those of cleaning up what we have seen in the past week and we should never forget that earlier this year two graffiti vandals lost their lives in Sydney while undertaking this senseless act. It is up to us all in the community to help police by informing them of if, when and who is undertaking this act, that is, after all a crime in every state.

Resources are available from the Graffiti Hurts – Australia website by visiting www.graffitihurts.com.au or by contacting them on 03 9720 7356.

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Further information or interviews contact Scott Hilditch, CEO, Graffiti Hurts – Australia 03 9720 7356, 0411 596 634 or info@graffitihurts.com.au