

COMBINED OPERATION LEADS TO ECSTASY SEIZURE

A joint operation between the Customs and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) was "another excellent result in Australia's relentless war on drug importers", the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison, announced.

Senator Ellison said the diligence of Customs and the AFP had resulted in the arrest of two men allegedly involved in importing approximately 68,000 tablets of MDMA (ecstasy) into Melbourne.

The arrests were part of a long-running investigation which had earlier this year led to the arrest of a man who had allegedly taken delivery of an air cargo container which allegedly held approximately 20 kilograms of MDMA.

As a result of the first seizure, ongoing investigations identified a second suspicious container which was then intercepted by Customs. This container was found to hold approximately 22.6 kilograms of MDMA, and Federal agents arrested two men in relation to the second importation soon after.

"A total of 42.5 kilograms of MDMA with an estimated street value of approximately \$6.5 million has now been seized, which is another win for Australian law enforcement against a sophisticated attempt to import dangerous drugs," Senator Ellison said.

"Australian law enforcement agencies have been given substantial resources to support their sterling work stopping drugs getting into the country and harming Australians," he said.

"Our message to illicit drug importers is simple: you will be caught and brought to justice."

A 42-year-old man from Elsternwick, Victoria, and a 25-year-old man from the ACT were both charged under the Customs Act with aiding, abetting and attempting to possess a commercial quantity of MDMA.



Approximately 68,000 tablets of MDMA (ecstasy) were found concealed in whitegoods.