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**ASIC**

Australian Securities &  
Investments Commission

## **KEVIN LORD SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT**

Former director of furniture company Keith Lord Wholesale Pty Ltd, Kevin John Lord, was today sentenced to an 18 month custodial sentence by the District Court in Brisbane on 20 Australian Securities and Investments Commission charges.

The Court ordered Mr Lord to be released after 9 months if he enters a recognisance bond of \$1000 to maintain good behaviour for a period of 3 years.

The matter was prosecuted for ASIC by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

The gaol term imposed by the Court followed contested sentencing as to the amount dishonestly misappropriated by Mr Lord for his personal use.

Mr Lord had earlier pleaded guilty to all charges but last week was refused leave by the Court to withdraw that plea. The offences occurred in late 1994 and early 1995.

The charges brought by ASIC total \$566,000. Mr Lord's defence counsel argued that the amount was overstated, and his client could only have misappropriated \$266,000. District Court Judge Manus Boyce QC today declined to put a figure on the amount misappropriated, instead referring to it as "a substantial sum".

The company supplied stock for Keith Lord Pty Ltd, a Sydney-based retail furniture chain with a major outlet on the Gold Coast.

Mr Lord placed the company into provisional liquidation in 1994 when it experienced financial difficulties.

The company managed to trade back to solvency and the provisional liquidator returned substantial funds to the company, most of which was misappropriated by Mr Lord. As a result the company was placed into liquidation in May 1995.

ASIC Regional Commissioner, Barrie Adams said today the provisional liquidator had returned the company to a point where creditors were going to have almost all of their money paid back to them.

"Instead those funds were taken by a director for his own use," he said.

"In situations such as this ASIC was determined to pursue Mr Lord for this corporate crime and has done everything it can to assist creditors and the public."

The ASIC charges against Mr Lord were laid in February 1997, and the matter has been before the courts since that time.

### **For further information contact:**

**Barrie Adams**  
**Regional Commissioner**  
**ASIC Regional Office Queensland**  
**Tel: (07) 3867-4707**  
**Mobile: (0411) 549 111**  
**ASIC 99/047**

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**ASIC Media Unit**  
**Tel: (02) 9911 2097**

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