



## **CLARENCE BOUNCES BACK**

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) applauds Clarence City Council's *Operation Bounce Back* campaign to prevent vehicle theft and immobilise older vehicles.

The campaign is one of nineteen projects being funded across Australia in 2008 by the NMVTRC's partnership with local crime prevention partners.

The NMVTRC's Executive Director, Ray Carroll, said, "Vehicle theft is down by 58 per cent in Clarence since 2005/06 and it is pleasing that Clarence City Council has taken up the challenge to reduce theft even further.

"*Operation Bounce Back* addresses the high number of older, unsecured cars that are at risk of theft. Around seven in ten vehicles stolen in Clarence are older sedans (manufactured prior to 1992) and almost all these thefts could have been avoided had these cars been protected by engine immobilisers."

Clarence's *Operation Bounce Back* program is giving away one-hundred Australian Standards approved engine immobilisers, fully-installed, to owners of older vehicles and those who have been a victim of vehicle theft. Residents can receive car theft prevention tips and enter to win a free immobiliser at Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre from the 12<sup>th</sup> until the 15<sup>th</sup> of May followed by Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

"Most car owners think, 'nobody would want to steal my old bomb'. Unfortunately in the last year over 100 drivers of older cars in Clarence found out that this isn't true," Mr Carroll said.

Clarence, together with Glenorchy City Council, will also be convening a Preventing Car Theft Youth Forum on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

Motorists that miss out on a free immobiliser can still have an Australian Standards approved immobiliser installed for around \$200 at a participating installer.

The NMVTRC is an initiative of all Australian governments and the insurance industry.

**Further information about Clarence City Council's *Operation Bounce Back* program:**

Julie Andersson, Clarence City Council 03 6245 8780

**Further information about the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council:**

Geoff Hughes, Director of Strategy and Programming, NMVTRC 1300 668 410

## MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN THE CITY OF CLARENCE

- 222 motor vehicles were reported stolen in the 12 months to June 2007 in the City of Clarence.
- Older cars amount for the overwhelming majority of vehicle theft in Clarence, with 73 per cent of stolen vehicles manufactured prior to 1992.
- Vehicles manufactured ten or more years ago tend to lack adequate security and as a result account for more thefts. The most popular theft targets in the City of Clarence are:
  - Holden Commodore (1989 to 1994)
  - Ford Laser (1981 to 1986)
  - Ford Falcon (1986 to 1991)
- The best protection against short-term theft for older vehicles is to fit an Australian Standards approved electronic engine immobiliser.
- Australian Standards approved immobilisers are available through the NMVTRC's Immobilise Now! program for around \$200.
- The NMVTRC is funding nineteen *Operation Bounce Back* grant packages across Australia in 2008.



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