



## **BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL LAUNCHES OPERATION BOUNCE BACK**

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) today congratulated Blacktown 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, "*Operation Bounce Back* is a great example of how local government and police can work together to tackle a major crime issue. Importantly, the project really confronts the key issue that drives local statistics – the high number of older, unsecured cars that are vulnerable to theft.

"Around one in two cars stolen in Blacktown are older sedans with relatively low values. All these thefts could have been avoided had the cars been protected by an engine immobiliser."

Blacktown'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. The program's launch will be held today at Civic Plaza at 3pm. Residents also have the opportunity to learn more about the program and car theft prevention on 15 May at Stanhope Village between 1 and 3pm and Westpoint Blacktown 1-3pm, and on 16 May at Mount Druitt Town Centre, 11am-1pm.

"Most car owners think, 'nobody would want to steal my old bomb'. Unfortunately in the last year around 800 drivers of older cars in Blacktown found out that this isn't true," Mr Carroll said.

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 Blacktown City Council's *Operation Bounce Back* program:**

John Encomienda, Community Development Project Assistant, City of Blacktown,  
02 9839 6327

**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 BLACKTOWN

- 1,571 motor vehicles were reported stolen in the 12 months to June 2007 in the City of Blacktown.
- Older cars amount for just over half of all vehicles stolen in Blacktown, with 51 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 Blacktown are:
  - Holden Commodore (1988 to 1996)
  - Toyota Camry (1987 to 1992)
  - Ford Laser (1984 to 1989)
- The best protection against opportunistic 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.



[www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au)