



## **AUSTRALIA'S PEAK CAR CRIME BODY URGES MOTORISTS TO BE CAR-SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS**

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) today urged motorists to be vigilant in minimising the risk of vehicle theft as we approach the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

Last year around 190 vehicles were stolen across Australia every day throughout December and January, making the summer holidays a particularly high risk period for vehicle theft.

The NMVTRC's Executive Director Ray Carroll said, "We often see an increased number of thefts around holiday periods. With many people going on holidays and leaving their car at home, Christmas can be a particularly lucrative time for car thieves.

Older cars that lack adequate security such as an immobiliser are most at risk. However, the majority of late model vehicle thefts occur where the thief has gained access to the car keys."

Mr Carroll called for all motorists to follow these simple car safe tips to reduce their risk of theft:

- If you are going on holidays and leaving the car behind, be sure to take all keys with you.
- Park wisely – use off-street parking where possible or even better, park in a garage or behind lockable gates.
- When down at the beach never leave your keys unattended - always ensure someone is looking after them.
- Lock all doors and close windows when parked. A few minutes with the windows down will cool the car when you return. On a safety note, never leave children or animals locked in an unattended vehicle.
- Keep in mind that it is a road rule offence to not secure your car if you are more than three meters away from the vehicle. Lock your car and close all windows to avoid risking an infringement notice.
- Be sure to remove both personal navigation devices and their holders from parked vehicles. Be aware that the suction cup mark left on the windscreen can alert thieves to there being a navigation device in the vehicle even after it is removed from view.

- If you own an older vehicle, consider installing an engine immobiliser to greatly reduce your risk of theft.

“By following these precautions all motorists can greatly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of theft during the festive season – it is simply a matter of being aware and taking simple security measures,” Mr Carroll said.

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

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