



CANTERBURY BOUNCES BACK

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

The campaign is one of thirteen projects being funded across Australia in the second half of 2009 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 Canterbury are older sedans with relatively low values. All these thefts could have been avoided had the cars been protected by an engine immobiliser."

Canterbury's *Operation Bounce Back* program is giving away 145 Australian Standards approved engine immobilisers, fully-installed, to owners of older vehicles and those who have been a victim of vehicle theft. Information stalls where residents can learn more about car theft prevention and receive information bag giveaways will be held over the next couple of months, kicking off on August 15 at the Haldon Street Festival, followed by stalls at the Campsie Library, August 17-23, and Riverwood Library, August 24-29. Information stalls will be held at local railway stations throughout September.

"Most car owners do not consider the inconveniences to family, work and social lives that having a car stolen can cause. Unfortunately in the last year over 300 drivers of older cars in Canterbury found out that both the financial and emotional impact can be quite significant," 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 Canterbury City Council's *Operation Bounce Back* program:
Sarah McKean, Community Safety Officer, Canterbury City Council 02 97899549

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 CANTERBURY

- 727 motor vehicles were reported stolen in 2008 in the City of Canterbury.
- Older cars amounted for 51 per cent of stolen vehicles manufactured prior to 1998.
- 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 Canterbury are:
 - Ford Falcon (1988 to 1990)
 - Holden Commodore (1998 to 2002)
 - Toyota Camry (1988 to 1989)
- 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 a total of twenty-five *Operation Bounce Back* grant packages across Australia in 2009.



www.carsafe.com.au