



SCHOOL'S OUT, CAR THEFT'S IN

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) today urged Tasmanian motorists to be vigilant in securing their cars to minimise the risk of vehicle theft over the school holiday period.

On average, three cars were stolen every day across Tasmania in September last year, with school holidays being potentially higher risk periods for motor vehicle theft.

The NMVTRC's Executive Director Ray Carroll said, "We often see increases in the number of thefts around peak holiday periods. With many people going on holidays and leaving one of their cars at home, the school holiday break can be a particularly lucrative time for car thieves."

Mr Carroll warned that Tasmania's largely older vehicle fleet leaves many cars vulnerable to opportunistic theft.

"Older cars are the most at risk as they do not have adequate security; however the chances of your car being stolen can be greatly reduced by installing an Australian-Standards approved immobiliser."

Owners of late-model cars are urged to protect their keys, as the majority of newer vehicle thefts occur where the thief has gained access to the keys.

"If your car is worth \$20,000, that could be the value of your keys to a thief," Mr Carroll said.

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.
- Lock all doors and close windows when parked. 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 metres 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 school holiday break – it is simply a matter of being aware and taking simple security measures,” Mr Carroll said.

The top theft targets in Tasmania 2008/09 were:

Holden Commodore 1986-1992

Ford Laser 1982-1989

Nissan Pulsar 1988-1992

Toyota Corolla 1983-1988

Ford Falcon 1988-1993

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

Further Information: Ray Carroll, Executive Director, NMVTRC, (03) 9348 9600

www.carsafe.com.au