



STRATHFIELD LAUNCHES OPERATION BOUNCE BACK

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

The campaign is one of twenty-four projects being funded across Australia throughout 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.

"Close to half of all vehicles stolen in Strathfield are older sedans: the family runabout or your teenager's first car. Many of these thefts could have been avoided had these cars been protected by an engine immobiliser."

Strathfield'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. Crime prevention information displays where residents can learn more about vehicle security will be held between 28 September and 2 October at Strathfield Plaza, ground floor, between 9am and 2pm.

"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 200 drivers in Strathfield 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 Strathfield Council's *Operation Bounce Back* program:

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Further information about the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council:

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MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN THE AREA OF STRATHFIELD

- 211 motor vehicles were reported stolen in 2008 in the Area of Strathfield.
- Older cars amounted for 47 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 Area of Strathfield are:
 - Toyota Corolla (1998 to 2003)
 - Toyota Camry (1989 to 1992)
 - Holden Commodore (1987 to 1993)
- 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.



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