



CAR THEFT HALVED IN THE CITY OF GLENORCHY

Latest figures from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) show a dramatic drop in vehicle theft of over 50 per cent in the Glenorchy Local Government Area (LGA).

In 2004/05 there were over 540 vehicle thefts in Glenorchy. By 2008/09 this figure had fallen to just over 250 thefts – more than halving the number of vehicles stolen in the past five years.

The NMVTRC's Executive Director, Ray Carroll, attributes a significant part of this fall in thefts to the success of the local car crime prevention campaign, *Operation Bounce Back*, which has been administered by the City of Glenorchy since 2004. The program, which is funded by the NMVTRC, aims to raise awareness of vehicle theft and promote the idea that prevention is a shared responsibility in hotspot areas across Australia.

Mr Carroll put the success of the campaign in Glenorchy down to effective promotion of the program over the past five years, as well as strong partnerships with crime prevention organisations, including Tasmania Police.

"Glenorchy's *Operation Bounce Back* program demonstrates the potential of local crime prevention initiatives to have a real positive impact for the community. Through strong and consistent promotion, and forming partnerships with Tasmania Police and other key community organisations, Glenorchy City Council has been able to improve motorists' understanding of vehicle theft and effective security measures.

"Almost all Glenorchy residents are now familiar with OBB, which is a credit to Glenorchy City Council."

Operation Bounce Back aims to reduce the high number of older, unsecured cars that are most at risk of theft.

Mr Carroll explained that Tasmania's largely older vehicle fleet leaves many cars vulnerable to opportunistic theft, with eight in ten cars stolen in Glenorchy in 2008/09 being manufactured prior to 1998.

Glenorchy City Council will run *Operation Bounce Back* for the sixth consecutive year in 2010. It is one of 13 projects being funded across Australia in the first half of 2010 by the NMVTRC's partnership with local crime prevention partners.

"A 50 per cent decline is an outstanding achievement and we applaud Glenorchy City Council for their positive role in this decline. However, there is always more that can be

done. It is great to see the area take up the challenge again to drive down theft even further," Mr Carroll said.

Glenorchy's *Operation Bounce Back* program will once again be 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.

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

Ross Park, Youth and Community Safety Coordinator - City of Glenorchy
03 6216 6780

Further information about the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council:

Ray Carroll, Executive Director, NMVTRC 1300 668 410

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT IN THE CITY OF GLENORCHY

- 258 motor vehicles were reported stolen in the 12 months to June 2009 in the City of Glenorchy.
- Older cars amount for the overwhelming majority of vehicle theft in Glenorchy, with 79 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 Glenorchy are:
 - Holden Commodore (1985 to 1991)
 - Nissan Pulsar (1989 to 1990)
 - Ford Falcon (1988 to 1995)
- 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-seven *Operation Bounce Back* grant packages across Australia in 2010.



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