



U-TURN QUEENSLAND WINS THEFT PREVENTION AWARD

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) congratulated U-turn Queensland today on its award for outstanding achievement in theft reduction. The award was announced at the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators conference in Wellington, New Zealand, last night.

The award recognises U-turn's success in turning around the lives of young recidivist car theft offenders. More than 60,000 vehicles in Australia were stolen by young people last year. While many young offenders simply grow out of stealing cars, about 15 per cent become recidivists, often stealing dozens of cars by the time they reach mid-teens.

The innovative U-turn program is based on the best practice model developed by the NMVTRC for high rate youth offenders. The YMCA operates U-turn Queensland, under contract to Queensland Police, and other U-turn programs are operated by other service providers in Hobart and Perth.

U-turn Queensland has already assisted almost 40 young people to break the cycle of offending.

The NMVTRC's Executive Director, Ray Carroll, said, "Addressing the involvement of young people in vehicle theft is critical to the national car-crime strategy. Pleasingly, U-turn Queensland has set new standards in getting kids through the full program, assisting them into work or school placements, and giving them the skills they need to break the cycle of re-offending."

"This award is testimony to the commitment of the YMCA and Queensland Police to helping young people get their lives back on track and further evidence that the NMVTRC's program model works."

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

Further Information:

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