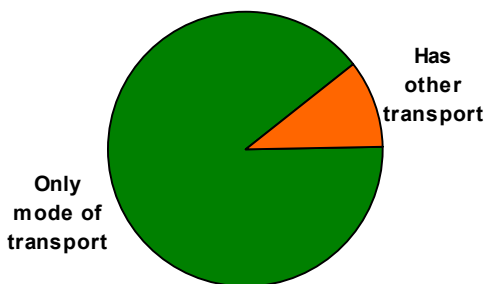


SURVEY OF DRIVERS' ATTITUDES TO THEIR CARS & THEFT LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA, 2005

Launceston City Council surveyed 155 drivers, predominantly owners of older cars, as part of its NMVTRC-funded *Operation Bounce Back* project. Respondents were asked why they should receive a free immobiliser. Their comments reveal the vulnerability of many to theft and the reliance of most on their cars for work, study, health and social activities.

Respondents and their cars

Figure 1. Sole mode of transport?



Nine in ten respondents reported that their car was their only mode of transport.

Generally, the respondents owned older cars with 87 per cent reporting their vehicle to be aged ten or more years.

Ninety-five (95) per cent of respondents reported an income of less than \$25,000 per year.

Comments from Respondents

- "I worked hard to get my first car and my licence and would be devastated for it to be stolen"
- "It's an awful feeling to have your car stolen. I don't want it to happen again"
- "My last car was stolen, then found. I would like this one to stay at home"
- "I live in a high risk area of theft and crime and I saved hard to buy it"
- "Without it, I can't work as I am a relief teacher"
- "Just got my first car and am worried about it being stolen...can be started with any thin object"
- "So many cars are stolen these days, especially older ones like mine."
- "I rely on my car for work and I work to support my family...my car is my livelihood"
- "My children wouldn't be able to get to school without my car"
- "I am a pensioner and can not afford to replace my car if it was stolen"
- "If I haven't got a car, I can not work"
- "My car is used a lot at night in the city for meetings...I usually remove the coil lead"
- "My wife and myself are disabled pensioners and could not afford to replace it"
- "Loss of car would deny ready access to medical and other essential services"