



Launch of Crime Stoppers Week 2017 **ICE | Motor Vehicle Theft | Shoplifting**

The media is invited to attend the formal launch of Crime Stoppers Week 2017.

WHEN: Monday 1 May, 2017
WHERE: Waterside Pavilion, Mawson Place, Hobart
TIME: 11:00 - 11:30pm
MEDIA LIAISON: Ron Franks, 0417 525 855

Businesses, community groups and media join forces with Crime Stoppers Tasmania to say NO to crime and YES to a safer Tasmania, in 2017.

This year Crime Stoppers Week is targeting the manufacture, supply and distribution of the illicit drug Ice, motor vehicle theft and shoplifting.

Amanda Castray, Crime Stoppers Tasmania Chair said that “Everyone has the right to feel safe and our role at Crime Stoppers is to provide a trusted, reliable voice for a safer Tasmania. All Tasmanians can feel empowered to anonymously report crimes and in doing so help to build community and business confidence throughout Tasmania.”

Throughout the week, Crime Stoppers is encouraging all Tasmanian’s to play their part in recognising the detrimental impacts of illicit drugs, particularly Ice, motor vehicle theft and shoplifting.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania’s General Manager, Mr Ron Franks, said “In 2017, we are seeing a significant growth in the number of Tasmanian community groups and businesses coming together in partnership with Crime Stoppers with a common goal of keeping our communities safe”.

Illicit drugs will once again be a focus as Crime Stoppers with appeals to the public for information about the manufacture, supply and distribution of Ice.

“When it comes to illicit drugs, Crime Stoppers Tasmania is not targeting users. We continue to work with community groups and health organisations to encourage those effected by drug use to seek appropriate health and wellbeing solutions. We believe that individuals, businesses and community groups must work together with common goals in order to achieve a better, safer Tasmania for everyone” Mr Franks said

Motor vehicle theft and shoplifting are also in the sights of Crime Stoppers Tasmania this year.

“Information reports relayed to Crime Stoppers Tasmania concerning Motor Vehicle theft have increased 125% compared with the same time last year. In the most recently published Tasmania Police statistics (Feb 2017 FYTD) the instances of reported Stolen Motor Vehicles have increased by 18.75%,” said Mr Franks.

“It is important for law-abiding Tasmanians to secure and lock their vehicles with extra protection such as wheel locks, engine immobilisers and keep valuables hidden from view. A stolen vehicle driven in the community presents a danger to the public especially where drivers are unlicensed and inexperienced or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.” Mr Franks said.

This year Crime Stoppers Tasmania is also targeting shoplifting.

“Many people often overlook shoplifting as a ‘small’ crime, however, some evidence suggests retail shrinkage costs the average Australian household more than \$424 per year with total cost to Australian retailers at approximately \$2.7 billion per year.” Mr Franks said.

“Businesses can benefit from engaging directly with Crime Stoppers especially given that shoplifting often goes unreported to Police. By working with business and community groups to address the issue of shoplifting, we believe that all Tasmanians will ultimately benefit.”

“We encourage people to be observant in the community and if they see something suss, take the initiative and if they are in a position to act immediately to contact Crime Stoppers,” said Mr Franks.

Anyone with information pertaining to illicit drugs, stolen motor vehicles or shoplifting should contact Crime Stoppers anonymously on 1800 333 000 or online at crimestopperstas.com.au via our new online reporting function.

If the information relates to an incident in progress, it is important to call Tasmania Police directly on triple zero (000) for an emergency and 131 444 for the Police Assistance Line.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania operates as an independent non-profit, community organisation that supports crime solving through providing anonymous mechanisms for reporting crime.

Crime Stoppers Week is the largest campaign run each year by Crime Stoppers Tasmania with this year’s event focusing on Ice, motor vehicle theft and shoplifting.

Media Enquiries

For media inquiries and more information about Crime Stoppers Tasmania and Crime Stoppers Week 2017 (running from Monday 1 May to Monday 8 May), please contact Ron Franks, General Manager, CRIME STOPPERS TASMANIA on 0417 525 855 or Ron.Franks@police.tas.gov.au.

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Crime Stoppers Tasmania also acknowledges the invaluable support of Tasmania Police in the delivery of Crime Stoppers Week 2017.

Background - Crime Stoppers Tasmania

Crime Stoppers was introduced to Tasmania over twenty-three years ago. It operates as an independent non-profit, community organisation that supports crime solving through providing anonymous mechanisms for reporting crime.

It is part of an international program that has been in existence for over thirty years.

The mission of Crime Stoppers Tasmania is to operate as an independent, non-profit, community that assists and supports crime solving through the provision of safe, anonymous mechanisms for reporting crime.

Create a safer Tasmania for our children, for our families, for each other.