

Crime Stoppers Tasmania Media Release

Thursday 21 March 2019

Tassie gets behind anti-drug campaign

Crime Stoppers' recent Dob in a Dealer campaign contributes to 21 arrests and 63 charges laid.

Tasmanians have rallied to make the state safer, thanks to their tip offs to Crime Stoppers with details about illicit drug imports, manufacturing and supply.

As part of a four-month public awareness campaign, the national Dob in a Dealer program resonated with the local community, with residents making almost a three-fold increase in valuable reports to Crime Stoppers Tasmania.

The Dob in a Dealer campaign, funded by the Federal Government, was implemented to help stop Australia's supply chain of illicit drugs including methamphetamine (ice), cocaine, MDMA, heroin and cannabis.

Across Tasmania, four events attended by local government, police, community groups and corporates were hosted to appeal to the local community.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania Chair David Daniels said this was a terrific result for Tasmania.

"What a fantastic result to see the local area stand up and say no to drugs. The fact that there have been 21 arrests and 63 charges laid is testament to the success of this campaign and shows us that the community will not tolerate drug-related crimes," Mr Daniels said.

Cannabis was the most common form of drug reported to Crime Stoppers Tasmania during the campaign period at 36% of reports; closely followed by methamphetamines (ice) at 27%.

Methamphetamine reporting continues to increase year on year and this is consistent with the findings of the ABS in drug-induced deaths which showed that methamphetamine was the third highest killer in 2016 when it was ninth in 2007.

"It is clear that drugs such as ice are a growing problem for Tasmania, but this campaign has proven that the community has the power to be vigilant and report information about drug dealers anonymously to Crime Stoppers.

CALL 1800 333 000 OR VISIT CRIMESTOPPERS.COM.AU REWARDS ARE AVAILABLE.



"Tasmanians have really supported this campaign against drug dealers and the harm they cause, and we will continue to encourage and inspire the public to play their part in building a safer Tasmania," Mr Daniels said.

The Dob in a Dealer campaign has been delivered across the State:

- Launceston launched the campaign in November, resulting a four-fold number of reports in the week compared to the average number of reports for 2018 (January October).
- Hobart continued the momentum in December, focusing on the high number of deaths due to illicit drugs, with a two-fold increase in reports.
- In January, Burnie featured "what drug dealers won't tell you", producing a three-fold increase across the North West region.
- The last event in Hobart involved the support of the Tasmanian Chinese community, resulting in another two-fold increase.

If you have any information about someone who is manufacturing or dealing drugs, you can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at <u>www.crimestoppers.com.au</u>. Crime Stoppers receives information anonymously and rewards may be available for information that leads to an arrest.

Crime Stoppers is a trusted, independent link between police and the community.

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About Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers plays an integral part in supporting safer communities across Australia. It is a state based not-for-profit organisation partnering with law enforcement, the media and local communities to create awareness of criminal issues. Information collected by Crime Stoppers is passed on to law enforcement agencies anonymously to help solve and prevent crime and keep Australian communities and families safe.

If you have information about someone in your community who is manufacturing or supplying drugs or any other criminal activities, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report securely online at www.crimestoppers.com.au.

For more information on Crime Stoppers visit <u>https://www.crimestoppers.com.au</u>

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