

**December 4, 2019**

## **Respect retail staff this holiday season Don't walk by. Call out crime this Christmas break.**

Crime Stoppers Tasmania has today launched an advertising campaign to help reduce shoplifting and anti-social behavior in retail areas, in a show of support for retailers across the state.

Advertisements are being rolled out on Metro buses and on radio, highlighting the impact of shoplifting and anti-social behaviour on those who work in retail.

The Crime Stoppers state-wide campaign is supported by Tasmania Retail and Trade Brands Advocacy, Tasmania Police and the City of Hobart.

Criminal incidents at retail premises have been committed in hotels motels, pharmacies, business premises, large and small supermarkets, post offices, fast food outlets, food stores and shops. Offences have ranged from shop lifting to aggressive robberies.

“This campaign highlights the issues around anti-social behaviour and shoplifting, and the role that we all play in supporting not only retail businesses, but our friends and family working in retail,” says Crime Stoppers Tasmania Chair, David Daniels OAM.

“Retail therapy is a much-loved community pastime, especially around Christmas and the New Year sales, but a small anti-social element can spoil for some workers and shoppers what should be a positive experience.”

Retailers need the support of the community. Bus and radio advertising is urging the community to: Chill Out at the Checkout; and Respect Retail Staff.

Retail Trade Brands Advocacy (RTBA) crime prevention efforts are focussed on loss prevention and offences against retail premises and staff. RTBA Managing Director Mr Heath Michael said that products are more often now the target of crime. “Cash alternative products are being targeted by criminals. Many are high priced, easy to sell on items such as alcohol, tobacco and electronics”, said Mr Michael.

“Addressing serious retail crime, rather than petty theft, including prevention, training, solutions, collaboration with the authorities, and mitigating the consequences is something this campaign hopes to achieve through additional reporting”.

Crime Stoppers CEO, Mrs Mariae Leckie, says that more serious retail crime such as armed robbery is rare but can have a significant financial and emotional impact on employees.

“Public information is crucial to help Police find and arrest people involved in these sorts of crimes”.

# Crime Stoppers

## MEDIA RELEASE



To provide information anonymously to Crime Stoppers, go to [www.crimestopperstas.com.au](http://www.crimestopperstas.com.au) or call 1800 333 000. Don't walk by; call out crime this Summer break.

In September this year, Tasmania Police thanked the community and Crime Stoppers Tasmania for their assistance in making two quick arrests in relation to the attempted armed robbery of a McDonalds restaurant and a Coles supermarket.

In an emergency, please contact Tasmania Police on Triple Zero (000).

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### Background - Crime Stoppers Tasmania

Crime Stoppers Tasmania 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 forty years.

By offering anonymity and rewards (for information leading to charges being laid) Crime Stoppers combats the three major problems faced by the police in generating crime-solving information: fear of reprisal, apathy and reluctance to get involved.

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