

9 December 2020

Stopping retail abuse this silly season

Despite the pandemic, Tasmanian pre-Christmas retail sales are expected to increase by over 10% compared with last year, making shops busier than ever.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania has produced a guide for retailers to help staff manage shoplifting and antisocial behaviour during the festive season.

According to Crime Stoppers Tasmania's Deputy Chair Mrs Lynn Mason, more than a third of goods stolen from Australian shops is pilfered during the holiday season. This includes gifts, Christmas food and the latest gadgets.

"Christmas can be one of the most stressful times of year for many, and unfortunately this not only results in shoplifting, but also antisocial and aggressive behaviour; even violence," said Mrs Mason.

"This behaviour can have significant financial and emotional impacts on staff and shopper safety, and store security," she added.

The retail safety guide contains information on how to identify and manage suspicious or aggressive behaviour, tools to help develop a plan to escape an armed offender, and what to take note of and report to management or police.

The guide was produced by community partner Federal Group, who operate 21 bottle shops around the state.

Corey Terry, Store Manager of Launceston 9/11, says it is crucial that businesses have an established action plan in place to minimise the emotional and financial harm of retail crime.

"We take the safety of our staff and customers really seriously at 9/11, and this is a great refresher for us to have on-hand, alongside our ongoing training program."

"The guide we've helped develop will be a great resource for all kinds of retail businesses as we head into the festive season."

"We're a big supporter of the work Crime Stoppers Tasmania does to help keep our community safe."

The retail safety campaign recently won a Crime Stoppers International Award for Specialised Training; and is part of a larger body of work focussed on combatting antisocial behaviour, violence and theft around the State's retail districts.

The work has received support from retail peak bodies such as the Australian Retail and Trade Brands Advocacy Group and National Retailers Association, the City of Hobart, retailers, shopping centres and Tasmania Police.

CRIME STOPPERS TASMANIA

MEDIA RELEASE



Crime Stoppers urges Tasmanians not to walk by, but to call out crime if they encounter it. The public can provide information anonymously to Crime Stoppers via www.crimestopperstas.com.au or 1800 333 000.

The guides will be able to be accessed by retailers throughout Tasmania and will be available at larger police stations.



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

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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.

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

Crime Stoppers Tasmania

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