

## **Motor Vehicle Security: Look, Lock and Leave**

Mrs Rush and Mrs Thinksmart were best of friends.

Mrs Rush was always too busy to take the time to look after her vehicle security. She always meant to have an immobilizer fitted, but just didn't quite get round to it. "Next week I'll do that," she said each week. "Next week".

Mrs Thinksmart, on the other hand, knew the value of taking a few extra precautions to help reduce the likelihood of her car being broken into or stolen. She didn't record her name or address on her keys and never left a spare key in the car.

The two women lived in Canberra, and met up one evening a week for coffee.

Mrs Thinksmart always parked in a well-lit area and fitted a wheel lock. She locked her car doors and took her valuables with her. Mrs Rush thought vehicle theft could never happen to her.

Over time, Mrs Rush had become increasingly complacent with her car security – after all, she had parked in the same spot each week and never had a problem. She laughed at Mrs Thinksmart for wasting time recording details of her car such as make, model and engine number.

One night, however, Mrs Rush's car was stolen. Along with it went her CD collection, the mail she hadn't yet had time to read, a brand new pair of brown leather boots, and all her registration details including her name and address. It wasn't just Mrs Rush who was affected – the car was later used in a robbery, causing distress to the business owners and their families.

Mrs Rush, meanwhile, had no choice but to rely on her good friend Mrs Thinksmart for transport and this time wasn't quite so cynical about the vehicle security advice her friend shared.

### **ACT Policing recommends you follow these safety tips to help secure your car:**

- Always lock doors and close windows when your vehicle is unattended
- Park your car in the street and use an area that is well lit at night
- If you must leave valuables in your car, ensure they are locked away out of sight
- Spare keys should never be hidden in or on the car
- If you have a garage, use it rather than leaving your car in the driveway or on the street
- Remove cheque books, credit cards, driver's licence and registration papers from the glove box
- Record serial numbers of valuables and details of your car such as make, model and engine number
- Engrave or mark your property with your driver's licence number preceded by 'A' for ACT. Also mark your licence number on several places in the car
- When your car is being repaired, leave only the ignition key
- Avoid placing your name, address and registration number on keys
- Take your car keys with you or hide them when you leave your car at home unattended.

Further information about motor vehicle security is available on the ACT Policing web site at [http://www.afp.gov.au/act/crime\\_prevention.html](http://www.afp.gov.au/act/crime_prevention.html).

**SOURCE: ACT Policing**