



# CURTIN Neighbourhood Watch Group

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**AFP**  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

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**From the Area Coordinator:**

**They're out there**

A Curtin resident reported that in late February and early March, there were a few incidents near his home. In the first case at about time 2300, he was alerted to something unusual by a security light illuminating. He investigated to find young people occupying a parked car without the owner's knowledge or permission. On being discovered, the unauthorized occupants fled.

A few days later, the resident noticed several children riding bicycles in the street at between times 2200 and 2300. He did not suspect them of any offence, but could not help wondering if their parents were aware of their activities.

Several days later, the resident came upon an intruder attempting to steal a neighbour's car. Upon being discovered, the intruder attacked the resident and struck him on the head with a bottle. Using knowledge of self defence, the resident was able to overcome the intruder and keep him restrained until the Police arrived.

Late in March in a different part of Curtin while the residents were observing Earth Hour, an intruder took advantage of the darkness to break into their home and steal some money.

They're out there.

*John Robbins*

**Recently-established ACTION service**

Since September 2008, ACTION has been operating a new Community Route service each weekday from Woden Interchange to Brindabella Gardens Nursing Home via The Canberra Hospital, Southern Cross Care Village, Garran and St Andrews Village, Hughes.

Services have recently been expanded to five services daily, departing hourly from Woden Interchange between 10:00am and 2:00 pm each weekday.

Route 76 operates as a clockwise loop, Woden Interchange - Brindabella Gardens - St Andrews Village - Canberra Hospital - Woden Interchange

Route 77 operates as a counter-clockwise loop, Woden Interchange - Canberra Hospital - St Andrews Village - Brindabella Gardens - Woden Interchange

ACTION Gold Pass holders enjoy free travel on all these services, while off-peak fares apply for other concession card holders. For further information, including timetables, please call ACTION on phone 13 17 10 or check the ACTION website at [www.action.act.gov.au](http://www.action.act.gov.au).

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**Crime Statistics:** Crime statistics are deleted from the Website at the request of the AFP - they are available on hard copies distributed to all residents of the suburb.

## **Identity theft**

### **What is identity theft?**

Identity theft is a type of fraud which involves stealing money or gaining other benefits by pretending to be someone else. Having your identity stolen can be devastating- both financially and emotionally.

Identity theft can occur in many ways- from somebody using your credit card details illegally to make purchases to having your entire identity assumed by another person to open bank accounts, take out loans and conducting illegal business under your name.

### **How does identity theft work?**

Identity theft works in a range of ways- from crude methods to well organised scams.

Many of us have a wealth of personal information readily available- cards in our wallet, mail, public records, information saved in our computers and information posted on social networking sites.

Identity theft can happen easily and quickly. By leaving your personal information readily available, scammers will have easy access to this information. For example, scammers will pay people to rummage through rubbish tips and steal letters (also referred to as 'dumpster diving') to collect personal information.

However, despite your best efforts, a determined scammer can also create elaborate and cunning plans to trick you into providing your personal details. For example:

- Phishing scams are all about tricking you into handing over your personal and banking details to scammers. Most work by setting up special links in the email to take you to a combination of genuine and spoofed websites.
- Phoney fraud alerts are similar to phishing scams where scammers trick you into handing over your personal details. A common fraud alert involves the scammer pretending to be from your bank informing you that your credit card or account has been cancelled because of suspicious criminal activity (various excuses are used). They will then trick you to provide account details to 'confirm' your identity.
- Bogus job opportunities are usually posted on job websites. The scammer may use or sell your personal information provided in the job application.

### **Warning signs**

- You get an email or a phone call out of the blue asking you to 'validate' or 'confirm' banking details.
- You notice that amounts of money go missing from your bank account without any explanations.
- The caller pushes you to provide personal information and discourages you from checking if it's a genuine request.
- You are unable to obtain credit or a loan due to an unexplainable bad credit rating

### **Protect yourself**

- NEVER send money or give personal details to people you don't know and trust.
- If you receive a call from your bank or any other organisation, don't provide your personal details instead ask for their name and a contact number. Check with the organisation in question before calling back. Never rely on a number provided in an email or click on the provided link, instead find the contact number through an internet search or back of your ATM card.
- Regularly check your credit card and/or bank statements to ensure that suspicious transactions are detected.
- Shred all documents containing personal information, such as credit card applications, bank statements.
- Log directly on to a website that you are interested in rather than clicking on links provided in an email.
- Always get independent advice if you are unsure whether an offer/request is genuine.

*Source and more information:*

*<http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/tag/identitytheft>*

**Please assist our police by reporting all suspicious activity to: CRIME STOPPERS use: 1800 333 000.**

**For police attendance use: 131 444.**

**But, for all life-threatening emergencies use: "0 0 0"**

