

19 October 2018

Queensland one of nation's car theft capitals

RACQ has warned Queenslanders to take their car security seriously with the State once again ranked one of the worst in the country for vehicle thefts.

New data from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) revealed while car thefts were down six percent nationally in the 2017/218 financial year, when compared to the previous year, Queensland had bucked the trend with an increase.

RACQ spokesperson Kirsty Clinton said the Club was concerned by the results, with Queensland just one of two states which had seen vehicle theft rates climb.

"Unfortunately, our insurance claims data shows a 15 percent increase in car thefts last financial year compared to the previous 12-month period," Ms Clinton said.

"Our State takes out three of the five top spots for car theft in the country. It's extremely disappointing to continually see our State top these lists and we need to take action now."

Ms Clinton urged motorists to take simple steps to protect their vehicle.

"It seems like common sense, but we're all so busy these days and often overlook the obvious things," she said.

"When you leave your car, make sure the doors are locked, the windows are up and there are no valuables visible in the vehicle to tempt passing, opportunistic thieves.

"If possible, always park in a secure garage or in a well-lit, well-populated place. And in case the worst does happen, make sure your insurance policy is up-to-date."

RACQ continued to call on the State Government to financially support the NMVTRC to ensure Queensland no longer missed out on valuable local programs which tackled car theft.

Top five Local Government Areas for vehicle thefts in Australia during 2017/18:

1. Brisbane, Queensland – 2,115 thefts
2. Gold Coast, Queensland – 1,551 thefts
3. Greater ACT – 1,102 thefts
4. Logan, Queensland – 1,014 thefts
5. Hume, VIC – 934 thefts.

Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Kirsty Clinton 0438 987 158.

RACQ is Queensland's largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State's first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.