



## Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Tips

NSW Police is committed to assisting the community to be safe in all situations. Always seek help if you are feeling unsafe or unsure of your surroundings and seek assistance if you have been a victim of crime. Most offenders hope to avoid confrontation or being caught, and choose targets that they perceive as vulnerable.

### **When you are out:**

- Remember most mobile phones will call 000 even when no credit is on the sim card
- Consider having your local police station number programmed into your mobile phone.
- Keep your valuables out of sight or where you can see and reach them, especially mobile phones and wallets.
- If you have been drinking, avoid getting into heated discussions – logic and rationale thought are affected by alcohol or illicit drugs
- If a friend is seriously affected by alcohol or illicit drugs take them away from the venue or area. Don't listen to their insistence they are okay

### **Driving and Car parking:**

- Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car, especially if they are hard to find in a handbag
- Car Parks with a parking attendant or are supervised/patrolled are best, otherwise try to park in locations that are well lit and/or well populated and not crowded in by bushes or buildings where offenders might hide.
- Arriving together with a group of friends or meeting each other at a designated place ensures you are not alone for long periods and reduces the appearance of vulnerability. Offenders target people who appear vulnerable
- Fill your car with petrol at well lit and visible service stations, or during the day light hours

### **Transport:**

#### **On the train:**

- Travel in the guard's compartment identified by a blue light, or in carriages that have groups of people who could assist if needed
- Travel in groups of friends if you can
- If alone, identify someone to sit near and smile at them
- Arrive at the station as close to the departure time of the train as possible and stand where the station is well lit.

**In a taxi:**

- Sit in the back of the taxi and travel with friends
- Give clear directions where you want to go – if you are not on the agreed route, terminate the trip
- If feeling unsure, insist on being taken to a safe place and terminate the trip

**Walking:**

- Stick to major routes and roads and don't take short cuts
- Use footpaths that are well lit and not closed in by bushes or obstacles
- Stay in groups of people
- Change direction if you think you are being followed and seek a safe place

**Major Events and public spaces:**

- Never leave valuables unattended at the beach, in parks or at major events
- Tell people where you are going and what time you will return
- Don't take masses of belongings and bags – keep them in the middle of your circle and always have one person with them
- Use alcohol in moderation
- Drink plenty of water and give yourself enough time to get in and out of where you want to be.

**Making good use of public space:**

- Walk away from unpleasant or aggressive behaviour and take your friends with you
- Never forward on SMS messages that are inappropriate
- Be a positive 'leader' in the group – mostly group behaviour will follow one or two