



**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE**  
KEEPING SA SAFE

PREVENTING  
CRIME

## VEHICLE SECURITY – THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE

With 49,013 passenger and light commercial vehicles being stolen in Australia in the financial year ending 30 June 2012, you may ask what happens to these vehicles or why are they being stolen? Where do they go and what can you do to prevent the theft?

### **Profit Motivated Theft**

Profit motivated theft means vehicles that are stolen for the purpose of converting into cash by illegal means. These are usually referred to as 'illegal rackets' and are run by organised criminals with the sole purpose of stealing a vehicle to gain monetary benefit. Whether it is to launder the vehicle overseas or interstate, or stripping the vehicle for spare parts to be sold or used to build other vehicles that have been stolen or crashed, the vehicle will generally never be recovered. Two-thirds of all of all passenger and light commercial vehicle theft were profit motivated and of these 7,704 vehicles are more than 11 years old when they are stolen. Conversely, around 964 vehicles under five years are in this category – this is simply because of the reluctance of criminals to target vehicles with higher levels of electronic and security protection with the higher probability of getting caught.

### **Short Term Theft**

The majority of vehicles stolen in Australia are classed as 'short term theft' with 42,335 vehicles stolen in Australia in the financial year ending 30 June 2012. These vehicles are stolen by opportunistic thieves for short term use such as: an immediate means of transport; for fun or 'joyriding'; or used to commit other crimes such as robberies. The vehicles are dumped, and sometimes burnt to reduce opportunities for forensic evidence. Recovery of these types of vehicles by police is reasonably quick.

In both profit motivated theft and short term theft, older vehicles with less built-in protection are more likely to be a target for theft. Secure vehicles to minimise the opportunity of theft by locking vehicle doors and closing windows; installing an alarm and/or immobiliser; not hiding spare keys in the vehicle; and keeping keys at home in a safe location.

For further information please go to [www.carsafe.com.au](http://www.carsafe.com.au)

If you have any questions please contact the Police Crime Prevention Section at your nearest police station or visit [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au).

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is committed to working in partnership with the community to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime to ensure that South Australia is a safe place to live, visit and do business.



## VEHICLE SECURITY

