

**Crime Stoppers Continues to Help Police Drive Down Crime**

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Minister for Police Michael Daley today praised the efforts of the NSW community in fighting crime, with new figures showing a record number of arrests, drugs seized and stolen property recovered as a result of calls to the Crime Stoppers hotline.

Mr Daley said input from the community through the 24-hour hotline was one of the most vital sources of information to the NSW Police.

“The community plays an essential role in fighting crime so I’m thrilled to see that the number of calls to the Crime Stoppers hotline has risen over the past year.

“These new statistics also show that calls from the community have lead to the seizure of over \$32 million worth of drugs last financial year – which is almost four times the amount seized as a result of Crime Stoppers calls in the previous year,” he said.

In the 2008/09 financial year:

- Crime Stoppers NSW received 45,275 phone calls and reports, up 11 per cent from the previous year.
- Police made 1,081 charges and arrested 268 people following calls to Crime Stoppers, up by 143 per cent from 445, and 87% from 143 people respectively from 2007/08.
- NSW Police **seized drugs worth \$32.2 million as a result of calls to Crime Stoppers, up 268 per cent from \$8.7 million in 2007/08.**
- Police recovered \$4.3 million worth of property, up by almost 7 per cent.

“These figures show the impact that information from the public has on crime, but it’s important to remember they don’t include the crime that has been prevented as a result of calls to Crime Stoppers,” Mr Daley said.

“This Government will continue to make sure our Police Force is one of the best equipped in the world, but nothing can replace the eyes and the ears of the community.

“Just last week the courts found five Sydney men guilty of planning a terrorist attack on our soil in the biggest counter terrorism trial in NSW history.

“What people don’t know is that these guilty convictions started with one phone call.

“One person’s diligence led to over four years of investigative work by the NSW and Federal Police and the NSW Crime Commission, the seizure of 38,000 rounds of ammunition, deadly amounts of chemicals and explosives and ultimately the arrest of nine convicted terrorists on our soil,” he said.

Mr Daley said Crime Stoppers Australia were to be congratulated for their ongoing work with the community and the NSW Police.

“CEO Peter Price and his team have worked tirelessly to make Crime Stoppers a household name that’s synonymous with community security and there’s no doubt their great work has lead to these record results.

“Just last week NSW Crime Stoppers won a suite of international awards which is further evidence they are world-leaders in the fight against crime,” Mr Daley said.

Crime Stoppers CEO Peter Price encouraged members of the public to put the 1800 333 000 Crime Stoppers phone number into their phones.

“Having the Crime Stoppers number at your fingertips will help you play your part in keeping our community safe,” he said.

“I’d also encourage the public to visit the Crime Stoppers website to look at the campaigns we’re running, including anti-card skimming alerts and promotions to alert boat owners to marine crime.

“No matter how insignificant you may think some information is, the Police want to hear from you,” Mr Price said.

NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Bob Waites said calls from the public often proved to be vital to the success of police investigations.

“You can’t underestimate the importance to us of what you might consider a small amount of information that you supply in a single phone call.

“A single phone call can make the difference between a crime being committed or spoiled,” Mr Waites said.

Crime Stoppers NSW won the following awards on 13 October 2009 at the Crime Stoppers International Conference

- Productivity Award for Communities over 5 million - Greatest Increase in Arrests.
- Productivity Award for Communities over 5 million - Greatest Increase in Total Property Recovered.
- Media Award for Communities over 5 million - Best Television Public Service Announcement (Marine Crime campaign).
- Media Award for Communities over 5 million - Best Print Public Service Announcement (Child Sexual Exploitation campaign).
- Peter Price, the 'Corallie Wagner Memorial Award' for his the most significant contribution to Crime Stoppers by any one person in 2008/09.

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