

A conversation police would like you to have with your children

“Street Robberies” (stealing items from another person using fear or force) can happen at any time of the day or night, to any person. Lately we've seen a number of street robberies where younger people, male and female, are targeting other young people and demanding their belongings. Sometimes a weapon is produced, and sometimes the victim has been injured. It is important for parents to have this discussion with their children, so they know how to keep themselves safe:

Most importantly, **always BE ALERT and AWARE** of what's going on around you. Try to avoid walking alone, especially at night or in quieter areas. Stick to well-lit areas and main roads. Keep your headphones out of your ears and put your phone away so you're not distracted. Keep your eyes up and scanning your environment. If anyone or anything concerns you, give it a wide berth and go towards a safer place where there are other people.

Victims are targeted because they have something the thief wants. **DON'T DISPLAY YOUR VALUABLES** like your phone, headphones or ipad. Clothing like expensive runners or puffer jackets are also targeted and these can't be hidden, so please be aware of your surroundings.

If you are approached by someone who demands your belongings, **COMPLY WITH THEIR DEMANDS. YOUR SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST** Items can be replaced, and often when police charge an offender we can get your property back to you.

It is important that these robberies are **REPORTED IMMEDIATELY by calling 000**. Note the location, offender's description, clothes, and which way they headed. This gives police the best possible chance of catching them. If you are worried about “payback” for reporting to 000, remember that you can report **ANONYMOUSLY** to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. If victims don't report these incidents, the criminals continue to get away with it, which is bad for everyone.

We all need to work together to stop crime. Robberies are unacceptable. **SPEAK UP** if you know something. We don't want you to feel scared, just **AWARE AND SAFE**. Talk with your family and friends and look after each other.

If you would like further advice about Crime Prevention, please call Leading Senior Constables Lisa Dobbie or Chris Dawson at Moorabbin Police Station on 9556 6388.