



# HELP YOURSELF!

**DON'T INVITE CRIME**

## PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM THEFT IN PUBLIC

**Victoria is a vibrant and safe place, but everyone can take sensible precautions to protect their personal belongings from theft when out and about.**

Most thefts in public occur when your valuables are clearly visible and if you are distracted or leave your possessions unattended. Money, wallets, handbags and valuable electronics such as phones and computers are attractive to thieves. Follow this simple advice to help protect yourself and prevent thefts.

When You're Out	
<b>Stay Alert</b>	<b>Tick</b>
Be assertive and walk with confidence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Always keep one ear free if using headphones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be alert and aware of people who appear suspicious	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Keep it Light</b>	
Take only what valuables you need for the occasion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Hold it Tight</b>	
Keep hold of your valuables at all times and never leave them unattended	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep bags facing away from passing traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never leave bags or valuables on adjacent seats. Keep bags on your lap or with a foot on the strap when sitting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure valuables in your car before placing your shopping inside	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Keep it Out of Sight</b>	
Keep bags zipped up so valuables cannot be seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Place money and purse/wallet away immediately after a transaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep valuables hidden away when not in use (phones, music players, laptops)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Key Crime Prevention Tips

- **Stay Alert** when out in public
- Keep valuables **Light, Held Tight** and **Out of Sight**
- Be aware of your personal security when using ATMs.

### ATM Security

*Using an ATM is generally a safe and convenient way to withdraw money, but there are some important steps you can take to protect yourself.*

- Use ATMs located inside buildings, supermarkets or other busy, well-lit locations
- Be aware of any suspicious people and do not use the ATM if you feel unsafe
- Check the card slot for any signs of tampering – such as an attached object
- Cover the keypad with your other hand when entering your PIN
- Never write your PIN down or store it in your phone – remember it
- Only withdraw as much cash as you need at the time – immediately place it in your purse/wallet
- If your card is not returned by the machine, alert the bank immediately
- Visit the website of your financial institution for more information about ATM security.

### In The Event of Theft

- Do not attempt to retrieve your valuables from a thief. Your safety is the most important consideration
- If you have been a victim of theft, report it immediately to your local police
- Give police the details of your stolen items.

If you require immediate police attendance, call police on Triple Zero (000)  
If you have any information regarding a crime, call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

[helpyourself.vic.gov.au](http://helpyourself.vic.gov.au)



VICTORIA POLICE

