

# New interactive tool snares criminals in the Crime Stoppers web

Crime Stoppers is a valuable community partnership between the not for profit volunteer community organisation Crime Stoppers Queensland Limited and the Queensland Police Service.

The Crime Stoppers ideal was born from the need to overcome two obstacles that prevent some members of the public passing important information on to the police—fear and apathy.

This website features enhanced visual elements such as photos, comfits and video footage. Web pages in the *Unsolved Crimes* section of the site are regularly updated to help the public identify offenders.

Informants can submit information via the *Share Crime Information* portal and even attach pictures, mobile telephone and CCTV footage to enhance their information.

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The effectiveness of Crime Stoppers is evident in the statistics. Since 1989 more than 16,000 arrests have been made in Queensland with the help of



Crime Stoppers provides the public with an avenue to pass on information anonymously, which has led directly to the solving of a number of crimes. There may also be cash rewards should the information they provide lead to the arrest of an offender.

The Crime Stoppers program has traditionally operated a toll free telephone hotline but with the advent of online technology, members of the public can now report information anonymously through the Crime Stoppers Queensland interactive website.

As with the 1800 333 000 toll free telephone number, providing information is completely anonymous as the website uses secure servers which remove the ISP address of the informant to maintain the integrity of the Crime Stoppers program.

Trevor O'Hara State Manager of Crime Stoppers Queensland Limited said anonymity was paramount to the effectiveness of the program.

“The statement ‘tell us what you know, not who you are’ remains as

information received anonymously, including 17 solved murders.

Drugs worth more than \$556 million have been seized and more than \$8.8 million worth of stolen property has been recovered.

The interactive website has proven to be an effective tool for providing vital clues on outstanding crimes or cases that may have stalled. A significant feature of the website is the ability for investigators to respond confidentially to informants and ask specific questions. Even when engaged in

such online discussion, informants remain completely anonymous.

Senior Sergeant Paul Ready, Crime Stoppers Unit Officer in Charge, said investigators benefited from the website because it maximised the opportunity to gather specific information from the public.

“For the first time, investigators are able to interact with informants without jeopardising their anonymity, something they could not do with the traditional method of providing information over the phone,” Senior Sergeant Ready said.

“This website is a valuable crime solving tool and I encourage both officers to provide pictures and footage for uploading to the *Unsolved Crime* pages, and members of the public to visit the site if they have any information that could help an investigation.”

To view the new interactive website go to [www.qld.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.qld.crimestoppers.com.au) or for more information for police on how to utilise Crime Stoppers to enhance investigations, contact Senior Sergeant Paul Ready, Officer in Charge, Crime Stoppers Unit.

*Anonymous*