

# Seniors Task Force goes online

A Seniors Task Force handbook is now available online to cater for the growing number of seniors who are gaining computer skills.

Minister for Police and Corrective Services Judy Spence said an electronic version of the popular seniors' safety handbook *Confident, Safe and Secure Living in Queensland* was available online at [www.police.qld.gov.au](http://www.police.qld.gov.au), providing practical information and tips on personal and property security.

"Seniors have been one of the fastest growing groups in the community in terms of computer use, so this will provide a convenient option for many seniors to access the important information in this booklet," Ms Spence said.

"It has been a big success since its launch in October 2004, so much so that the first 10,000 copies have already been distributed and the Seniors Task Force is planning a further print run this year.

"The Task Force is also speaking with ethnic community groups about reprinting the booklet in a number of other languages," she said.

Ms Spence said the Task Force had recently marked its first anniversary, and in its second year would continue research with the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) into seniors' fear of crime, and strategies to target personal theft such as purse snatching.

"While statistics show seniors to be at a low risk of crime, purse snatching is one of the most common offences against older people," Ms Spence said.

"Senior women are more likely to be victims of bag snatching than any other age group, with the most common locations being supermarkets, hospitals, cafes and restaurants.

"The handbook contains steps for women to protect their handbags, such as not leaving them in shopping trolleys or at their feet in public places."

Ms Spence said the Task Force also planned to conduct a Fear of

Crime survey later this year, which would be an important information gathering tool.

"Over the past few months, the Seniors Task Force has been working with the CMC to formulate a survey that will provide an up-to-date snapshot.

"The results of the survey will help develop further strategies that will assist seniors to live life to the full, without fear.

"The last time that comprehensive research into fear of crime among seniors was conducted in Queensland was in 1991," Ms Spence said.

"All Queenslanders have the right to feel safe and secure, whether it's in their own home or in the community, yet the fear of crime prevents some seniors from participating fully in day-to-day activities."

## Design National Police Memorial and win

Queenslanders are being encouraged to enter a competition to design a National Police Memorial to commemorate and pay tribute to Australian police officers killed in the line of duty.

Minister for Police and Corrective Services Judy Spence said the memorial would be an important reminder of the hundreds of police who had died while serving the community.

"We are fortunate to live in a country where some police go well above and beyond the call of their duties in helping others," she said.

"Sadly, all too often that comes with the price of lives that are lost. In the past 203 years, more than 700 police officers have died on active duty in Australia – and more than 130 of those were Queensland officers.

"By establishing a National Police Memorial we are enabling their memories to live on, and providing us all with a physical expression of our sorrow and gratitude."

Ms Spence said the Australasian Police Minister's Council had decided that a National Police Memorial would be built at Kings Park in Canberra, overlooking Lake Burly Griffin.

"This memorial will be a focal point for special events and services related to the various police services, such as National Police Remembrance Day on September 29," she said.

"It will also be a place for quiet reflection."

Ms Spence said the memorial would feature an honour roll containing the names of police officers killed in the line of duty from each State and Territory.

"While we would hope that no further names will be added to this list, we are all aware of the nature of police work and the inherent risk officers undertake in fulfilling the commitment they make to the people of this country," Ms Spence said.

Competition details can be obtained at [www.nationalcapital.gov.au](http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au). Submissions close on April 29. The winner and cash prize will be announced in July.