



OCT-NOV 2008

CAMPUS WATCH NEWSLETTER

PERSONAL SAFETY

Suspicious male targeting female International Students/Wollongong College Australia Students

Three female students have reported to Security and Police having been approached by a male person aged between 50 and 60 years old, Caucasian, with grey hair wearing a very bright multi-coloured shirt. The person was driving a 1990 Toyota Camry sedan, silver in colour.

In one incident a female student got into the person's vehicle thinking it would be impolite after being offered a lift.

At the end of the trip the person hugged the student and kissed her twice on the cheek. She found it difficult to break the tight hold the person had as he hugged her.

This male person's behaviour centres around offering female students a lift in his car and offering accommodation.

POLICE INQUIRIES

Police have informed UOW Security that they have interviewed a person of interest in the above matter and their inquiries continue.

Police have reminded students that they need

to remain vigilant about personal safety and not accept offers of rides from strangers or people they do not know.

SAFETY

Students should not accept lifts from people or strangers they do not know. It is important that as a campus community we convey to all international students that it is not normal for people to offer a lift in their car to people seen walking along a street.

It is not impolite to refuse an offer from someone you do not know if they offer you a lift in their car.

It is not safe to wave drivers down for a lift, to hitch hike or in an Australian expression "thumb a lift".

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

Students looking for accommodation outside the University accommodation are encouraged to look through respected commercial sources, e.g. rental property agents, etc.

If looking at private rental properties ask for references and carefully assess the arrangements under which you will rent and live.

Shared accommodation in the private rental mar-

ket is an area in which students should very carefully consider before making any agreement or signing any documents. Look at what is on offer and who are you going to be living with.

Make sure you will be safe and that your personal property is protected.

Consider the following:

- ◇ Who will you be sharing the property with?
- ◇ Is it a family?
- ◇ Is it a single person owner?
- ◇ Do they have references from other students who have lived there before? You could contact these students to see if they have been happy with the past arrangements.
- ◇ Are you comfortable with the agreement and living arrangements outlined to you?
- ◇ If not, then trust your instincts and look elsewhere.

STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Students have the responsibility to:

- ◇ Screen any accommodation providers and the facilities they offer.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◇ Personal Safety
- ◇ Monthly Statistics

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- ◇ Review the accommodation provider, the facilities and the conditions on which the conditions are offered.
- ◇ Students are strongly urged to visit the dwelling prior to any agreement being made or signed.
- ◇ What arrangements are in place for any losses or damages that a student might suffer or experience while living in the intended accommodation arrangements?
- ◇ Arrangements made by students in shared accommodation can involve risk so be certain that you trust the people you will be living with.

Police, Fire, Ambulance Triple Zero (000) <small>In an emergency</small>	For urgent assistance
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000 <small>Report crime anonymously</small>	Anyone with information about illegal activities or suspected perpetrators are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers on their toll free number
Police Assistance Line 131 444 <small>For non-emergencies</small>	For non-emergencies Call 131444 or Wollongong Police on 42267899

Read "The Renting Guide", which is available from the Student Service Centre, before meeting a vendor.

Reported Incidents January - October 2008

2008										
INCIDENTS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Stealing	-	2	5	5	4	2	2	5	3	3
Break-ins	-	6	1	-	1	-	3	-	1	3
Stolen Cars	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Stealing from Cars	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
Stolen Bicycles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Malicious Damage	4	2	4	2	4	1	3	10	9	1
Suspicious Persons	-	2	3	5	9	1	4	7	8	5
Assault	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	2
Robbery Related	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-