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**For immediate release
Friday 13 February 2009**

CRIME STOPPERS QUEENSLAND CELEBRATES NATIONAL CRIME STOPPERS DAY AND LAUNCHES ITS 2009 CRIME STOPPERS YOUTH CHALLENGE TOPIC OF STOP YOUTH VIOLENCE

Crime Stoppers Queensland today launched into its third year of the Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge Queensland, with the additional support of 2009 Sponsors the Harcourts Foundation and Ansvar Insurance.

The Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge Queensland is a competition for students in Years 6 to 12 in schools and youth organisations such as Scouts, Cadets and PCYCs throughout Queensland.

Crime Stoppers Queensland State Manager Mr Trevor O'Hara said "In 2007 the challenge topic was theft and in 2008 the topic was Stop Arson. This year the topic is Stop Youth Violence".

"Youth Violence has been on the political and community agenda in recent years and it was time that our community volunteer organisation contributed to growing public concern, by using our Youth Challenge to draw attention to the problem and assist in educating students in years 6 to 12 throughout Queensland, to Stop Youth Violence" he said.

Youth participating in the competition work together in groups to design practical solutions to assist in preventing and reducing youth violence. Importantly youth learn through the competition about the role of Crime Stoppers Queensland – a not for profit community volunteer organisation.



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CEO of Harcourts Queensland Mr Aaron Brooks, said “the program gave students the chance to understand the impact of youth violence and help come up with ways to prevent it. Students will research what the impact of youth violence is on their own community and suggest new initiatives on ways to reduce youth violence crimes”, he said.

“The Harcourts Foundation is proud to be a sponsor of the 2009 Challenge along with Ansva Insurance in order to promote a safer community for the public which we service”, said Mr Brooks.

The Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge Queensland is a collaborative program delivered by Crime Stoppers Queensland Limited in partnership with the Queensland Ambulance Service, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts, the Queensland Police Service and the Matthew Stanley Foundation.

“This year we are pleased to have the additional partnership support of the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Matthew Stanley Foundation”, Mr O’Hara said. “With the topic of youth violence it was extremely important that we link with the existing community education programs being delivered by both of those organisations. More information can be obtained about the Youth Challenge from its website at www.crimestoppersyouth.com.au”.

Crime Stoppers Queensland has launched the 2009 Challenge today in conjunction with celebrations for National Crime Stoppers Day.

“Crime Stoppers is vital to policing in Queensland and is a shining example of the good that can be achieved when the community and police work together,” said Mr O’Hara.

“Without Crime Stoppers, thousands of crimes committed in Queensland would go unsolved and unnoticed every year.”



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In 2008, Crime Stoppers Queensland received over 39,393 phone calls (2007: 37,000), resulting in 1,633 arrests (2007: 1,394), 3,831 charges (2007: 3,418) and over \$6.3 million in illegal drugs seized (2007: \$4.7 million).

“Crime Stoppers is one of the most important resources we have in this country when it comes to creating a safer community. However, as the Crime Stoppers program began 19 years ago in Queensland, many people may no longer be aware of the crucial role Crime Stoppers plays in fighting crime, or more importantly don’t know the Crime Stoppers phone number,” said Trevor O’Hara.

“By saving the Crime Stoppers number into phones on Crime Stoppers Day, the community will have access to a quick, convenient and confidential crime fighting service – all contact with Crime Stoppers is completely anonymous.

Every single call made to Crime Stoppers can help to reduce criminal activity in Queensland, and that is why we want everyone to save the free call telephone number - *1800 333 000* - into their phones on Crime Stoppers Day.”

Since it began operation in 1989, Crime Stoppers Queensland has received over 470,288 phone calls. The information received has led to over 16,679 arrests and over 44,222 criminal charges laid, has helped to recover in excess of \$558.9 million in drugs and \$8.9 million in stolen property. Calls have also helped solve 17 murders and 17 attempted murders in the state.

Crime Stoppers Queensland Limited is a not-for-profit community volunteer organisation that provides and promotes the 1800 333 000 free-call hotline & website at www.qld.crimestoppers.com.au, and raises funds for the payment of anonymous cash rewards.



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Crime Stoppers Queensland relies on the support of corporate partners and community donations and is proud to have the Brisbane Airport Corporation as Major Partners in Queensland.

*****ENDS*****

For more information

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Challenge Sponsors:



Major Partner of Crime Stoppers in Queensland



Queensland Australia