



## **SAFEGUARDING VALUABLES AWAY FROM HOME**

In public spaces, handbags and wallets have long been prime targets for thieves seeking to obtain access to cash, credit cards and debit cards. However, with many people now regularly carrying around other valuables such as mobile phones and iPods, the potential losses are greater for victims of theft.

You should always be observant and aware of any suspicious looking persons, and call for assistance if necessary. Displaying a firm and confident manner in confronting a potential thief may prevent an offence from being committed, but it is important not to put yourself at risk of assault.

It is important to secure possessions close to your body and to face them away from passing traffic, therefore preventing cyclists or vehicle occupants from making a quick snatch.

In the event that you have a bag stolen, take extra precaution if the thief has obtained your address and keys to your home. Your personal information could also be used for identity theft, so ensure that you notify your bank or credit card provider as soon as possible. It is imperative to never keep a record of PINs with cards.

In some cases thieves may attempt to acquire your PIN by calling and claiming to be a bank, credit card provider or the police. Under no circumstances would these agencies contact you requesting a PIN, so never divulge this information over the phone.

### **Additional steps you can take to secure your belongings:**

- **Avoid walking in isolated or unlit areas**
- **Do not leave bags unattended**
- **Always keep car doors locked when travelling**
- **Avoid leaving items of value inside your vehicle**
- **If using public toilet, be careful where you place belongings**
- **Hold bags in a way that would prevent a pick pocket from opening a zip or clasp**
- **Try to avoid carrying large amounts of cash**
- **Seek out ATMs located inside buildings – busy locations will reduce the risk of theft occurring**
- **Always place cash in your wallet prior to leaving an ATM**

Along with insuring your contents with QBE, you may wish to consider cover for valuables to protect items such as your mobile phone, camera, laptop, sporting equipment or jewellery from accidental loss, theft or damage away from home. Contact FCCS on 1300 361 555 or visit [fccs.com.au](http://fccs.com.au) to find out more.

### **Important Notes**

Terms, conditions and acceptance criteria apply. Cover limits apply as set out in the policy wording. This material does not take into account your personal needs, objectives or financial circumstances and you should consider whether it is appropriate for you. Please read the product disclosure statement available at [fccs.com.au](http://fccs.com.au) to decide if a policy is right for you. Insurance issued by QBE Insurance (Australia) Ltd ABN 78 003 191 035 AFS Licence 239545