

Statements from a Victoria Police Media Spokesperson,

13 June

- Air Wing actively monitored the incident from the ground.
- Further to this, a divisional van (which consists of two police officers), that was responding to the incident received an update that the vehicle was 'pinging' at a location via the AirPod. I have been advised these police officers called the family and told them to sight tight and they would meet with them.
- The police officers met with the family in person and told them to go back to their house and not to follow the vehicle. Instead, they advised them to call Triple Zero (000) if they received an updated 'ping' for the location of the phone.
- Additionally, as per our previous comments, police from Keilor Downs police station attempted to contact the family four times via phone that went unanswered.

We have acknowledged that the comments made in relation to Triple Zero's involvement should not have been included in our statement, however the remainder of our statement is accurate.

12 June

Triple Zero (000) Victoria advised the family not to pursue the vehicle.

Victoria Police (members of the Keilor Downs Police Station) made four attempts to contact the family to cease pursuing the vehicle. On each of those occasions the call was unanswered.

When the vehicle was located by police, police made a further three calls to the family to advise the vehicle had been located.

In total, Keilor Downs police made seven calls to the family during the incident.

Statement to Media Watch

11 June

Afternoon,

Thanks for reaching out regarding the Channel 7 story.

What I can provide is...

Yes, Channel 7 did reach out to Victoria Police regarding this story, on Saturday afternoon.

The Media Unit was unfortunately not able to provide a response back to the outlet before news time.

A detailed response was provided to Channel 7 on Sunday afternoon after we were able to confirm all the details about the incident.

Brimbank CIU is currently investigating the incident, and their primary focus is to find and process the offenders for the theft of motor vehicle.

Police are unable to make comment on any alleged speeds or conduct at this point. However, are conscious of the situation and the driving conducted by the victims and we will be working with them regarding this in due course.

The family were advised not to pursue the vehicle, numerous calls were also made to them which were unanswered.

Victoria Police does not support vigilantism or people taking matters into their own hands and urge the community to contact Victoria Police in the first instance.

A copy of our statement regarding the incident, which was provided to Channel 7 is below.

Statement to 7News

8 June

Brimbank Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating a vehicle theft in St Albans on 6 June.

The victims discovered their vehicle had been stolen from the Sunshine Hospital car park and called triple-zero (000) at 1.21pm.

Police were dispatched to attend the scene within three minutes.

While on their way to the scene, the victims called 000 again to report they were tracking the vehicle via an AirPods and in pursuit.

The victims were told to cease pursuing the vehicle for their own safety and that of other motorists in the vicinity.

Police spotted the stolen vehicle at 1.39pm in the Albanvale area.

They monitored the stolen car for nearly 10 minutes however lost sight of it.

The Air Wing was notified and monitored the incident through the police radio with a description broadcast to all units in the area.

Officers made a risk assessment, deciding not pursue the vehicle due to safety concerns for other road users and there was the capability to track the vehicle.

The victims continued to chase their stolen car through Gladstone Park and Broadmeadows, locating it dumped in Coolaroo at 2.38pm.

The vehicle has been forensically examined and investigations remain ongoing.

Police fully understand the impact of having your car stolen, especially those which hold special significance.

But we ask people put their safety and the safety of the broader community first and leave matters to police.

We are grateful nobody was harmed and will explore all avenues possible to identify and arrest the offenders responsible.

Any witnesses, anyone with CCTV/dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or anonymously at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au