

22 April 2009

Thieves caught out by HIA Initiative

James Stuart Gilmore from Armadale has pleaded guilty to charges of aggravated burglary, stealing and no motor vehicle licence when he was caught stealing a plasma TV from a Perth builders display home. Gilmore is the latest addition to the offenders' list of the Housing Industry Association's (HIA) Name and Shame Campaign.

The offender had broken into the display home early hours of Saturday morning and removed a plasma television. A GPS alarm was activated and investigators in conjunction with WA Police tracked the television to a house in Westfield.

Police attended the scene and executed a search warrant at the address and recovered the television. The offender pleaded guilty in the courts to the incident and received a Community Based Service Order.

Further Police inquiries are continuing to locate other persons involved in the offence.

HIA's Acting Executive Director, David Endersby said, the Name and Shame Campaign is stopping crime on building sites and ensuring the apprehension of offenders.

"The results shown in this incident highlight the success the Campaign achieves through working closely with the WA Police," said David Endersby.

The crack down by the HIA Name and Shame Program comes after a recent spat of reported incidents of display home burglaries. Since August last year, there have been 12 reported incidents involving plasma screens, totalling \$34,000 in value.

Campaign Investigator from Meridian Services, Mr Craig Pages-Oliver said "we will continue to utilise GPS tracking devices on building sites in an effort to identify and apprehend offenders. However, it is disappointing to see what appear to be inappropriate penalties of such offences as burglary."

To date, 164 adults have been charged and convicted with 580 incidents of crimes committed on Perth's home building sites. For a list of all names "Shamed" by the Campaign please visit the HIA Name and Shame website at, www.hianameandshame.com.au.

Members of the public are encouraged to familiarise themselves with local building sites and report any suspicious behaviour to the Name and Shame Campaign hotline, 1300 2 REWARD (1300 273 9 273).

A reward of \$300 to \$3,000 will be offered for any information that results in an arrest. To date, the Campaign has given out over \$100,000 in rewards.

For further information contact:

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