

# SaferCommunity

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Australia is generally a very safe place to live and study. The 2017 OECD Better Life Index rated Australia 7.2 out of 10 for safety. However, it is still important to be aware of your own safety and take precautions to keep safe. This factsheet has useful safety tips.

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### Personal Safety Tips

#### On Campus

- Don't leave your belongings unattended
- Keep the number for campus Security in your phone (p. 9479 2222) and call if you need assistance
- When studying late, you can walk with friends or call for a Uni-Safe escort (p. 9479 2222)
- Park in the University car park

#### Using Transport

- In a car, wear a seatbelt
- Check public transport timetables in advance
- At night sit near to the driver
- Be aware of emergency assistance buttons
- If you feel uncomfortable, consider moving
- If travelling alone, tell someone your schedule
- Keep your belongings close to you



### SAFER COMMUNITY

Safer Community provides advice, support and referrals if you witness or experience unacceptable or concerning behaviour.

P: 03 9479 8988

E: [safercommunity@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:safercommunity@latrobe.edu.au)

W: [latrobe.edu.au/safercommunity](http://latrobe.edu.au/safercommunity)

Offices: Bundoora PE level 2, Bendigo SSC

### In Public

- Keep your belongings out of sight, e.g. be aware if your phone is visible in your back pocket or your bag is unzipped
- Be aware of the people around you
- Leave valuables at home, e.g. passport
- Avoid engaging with strangers
- Keep your personal information, such as your address, private
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings, e.g. look where you walk, not just at your phone or keep volume low if you have headphones in
- Keep your phone charged, or have money or a phone card in case you need to make a call
- Notice safety features, CCTV cameras and police, security or other staff

### Going Out at Night

- Plan your trip there and home, e.g. book a taxi or uber in advance, or look up the public transport timetable
- Avoid accepting a ride from a stranger
- Have safety precautions ready to use, such as an app that calls for assistance and sends your location to a friend
- Travel with a friend or group where you can
- Walk on footpaths, crossings, and in well-lit areas where possible
- If you feel threatened by someone, tell them to stop loudly, ask someone else for assistance or call for help

### At home

- Lock windows and doors
- Be mindful when opening the door if you do not know the person
- Consider leaving a light on when out at night, e.g. a sensor light

- Install a smoke detector, have a fire plan
- Close and lock garage/shed doors
- Have a neighbour collect your mail if you're away
- If hiding a key outside, consider having a lockable key box
- Keep valuables out of view from outside your home
- Consider an alarm or a dog to deter intruders

## BEING A HELPFUL BYSTANDER

If you see someone who looks like they are being harassed, bullied, or harmed you should take action if you feel safe to do so.

Taking action can be as simple as asking if they are okay or calling for help:

- Ask the person who is being harassed, bullied or harmed if they are okay or if they need help
- Draw attention to the situation, for example tell the threatening person to stop, or bring their behaviour to other people's attention
- Seek assistance from others, especially someone in authority, Security or Police
- Call for help, Emergency Services (000) or campus Security (9479 2222)
- Report the incident to someone, Security or Safer Community
- Do not engage in violence
- Listen and support the person who is being harassed, bullied or harmed
- Empower the person to seek help from support services

## SUPPORT AND REFERRALS

### Immediate assistance

#### Campus Security

Request a uni-safe escort, report a concern or incident, or seek emergency assistance on campus.

[www.latrobe.edu.au/security](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/security)

P: 9479 2222

#### Emergency Call Service – Triple Zero

National emergency call service for Police, Fire and Ambulance

[www.triplezero.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.triplezero.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx)

P: 000

### Reporting

#### Safer Community

Safer Community is a free and confidential service for students who experience or witness behavioural concerns to seek advice, support or referrals. You can report anonymously online.

W: [www.latrobe.edu.au/safercommunity](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/safercommunity)

P: 9479 8988

E: [safercommunity@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:safercommunity@latrobe.edu.au)

Offices: Bundoora PE Level 2, Bendigo SSC

#### Crime Stoppers

National crime reporting organisation. Confidentially report your information to help solve a crime.

W: [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

P: 1800 333 000

#### Victoria Police

Report crimes for investigation. Find your local Police station online.

W: [www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)

### Personal support

#### Student Counselling

Free and confidential short-term counselling for La Trobe University students.

W: [www.latrobe.edu.au/counselling](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/counselling)

After-hours contact the LTU Crisis Line on 1300 146 307 or text 0488 884 100

#### bSafe (App)

A free personal safety app designed to keep you and your friends safer 24/7. It is packed with features for both everyday safety and real emergencies, including a personal safety network, virtual friend walk, fake call and emergency alert with GPS, video and siren.

Download free at [Google Play](#) and [Apple](#)

#### Magistrates Court

Information about applying for a personal safety intervention order.

[www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au](http://www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au)

#### Office of the eSafety Commissioner

Information and advice about the safety of your devices and online safety.

W: [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

