

Home invaders strike

A Mosman Park family's car was stolen after a home invasion – the latest in a string of similar incidents in the western suburbs.

Police say the fear and heartache from the crime are avoidable, and urge residents to lock up their homes.

In the latest theft, the burglars got in through an unlocked back door only metres from the sleeping parents last Wednesday between 1 and 6am.

"Our 21-year-old daughter was also asleep," the shaken mother said. "It's very traumatic – my first thought was: 'Is my daughter okay?'"

The burglars took phones, wallets – and the keys to a Discovery 3 four-wheel-drive Land Rover.



The shocked Mosman householder, back to camera, did not want to be identified.

They quietly opened the garage door from inside and drove away. The family was alerted to the theft when a jogger discovered their discarded documents a few streets away.

The burglars took about \$100,000 worth of property and the Land Rover was found torched and unrecognisable in a southern suburb.

The crime is the latest involving expensive cars in the western suburbs.

Last week a Mazda RX-8 was stolen from Shenton Park and pursued to East Fremantle before police burst the car's tyres with stinger spikes.

In September a \$330,000 Aston Martin V8 Vantage was stolen from Claremont while the owner's son was asleep upstairs.

That same month Dalkeith was targeted: burglars took a Mitsubishi Pajero and a Land Rover Discovery, and also tried to steal a Maserati from the riverside suburb.

The Mosman Park family's Land Rover had just had an elaborate fit-out so they could go off-road camping.

"We haven't slept very well since the burglary," the mother said.

"They could have seen us in our bed – how quiet were they? We go to bed behind Fort

Knox."

Acting inspector Vic Hussey said there had been a spate of crimes because people had



The \$90,000 four-wheel-drive vehicle was reduced to ashes.

left windows and doors unlocked.

He said residents had to be extra-mindful about home security during the holidays.

"Home burglary is one of the most common crimes – being burgled can have a devastating impact on families," he said.

Mr Hussey said giving a home a "lived-in look" substantially reduced the risk of burglary.

"A good neighbour can be as effective as a police patrol in protecting your home while you are away," he said.

He said less than 20% of burglaries were solved by police.