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Mother Assaulted and Carjacked After Preschool Drop-Off in Victoria Suburb

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– Categories: Breaking News



A 56-year-old mother was assaulted and carjacked in broad daylight after dropping off her daughter at preschool in Lara, a quiet suburb west of Geelong, Victoria, Australia. The incident occurred shortly after 7:00 a.m. in the parking area of Lara Primary School and has prompted an active investigation by local authorities.

According to Victoria Police, the victim had briefly exited her vehicle, a Mazda CX-5 SUV, after dropping her daughter at school. Upon returning to the parking area, she encountered a man attempting to steal her vehicle. The suspect threatened the woman, demanding that

she get out of the car and implying he was armed. He then physically pushed her from the vehicle before speeding away.

Detective Senior Constable Paul Stokes, who is leading the investigation, described the incident as both opportunistic and disturbing. “It’s very low-life behavior,” Stokes said in a media statement. “The victim had simply attended school to drop her daughter off and was confronted with this kind of threat. You wouldn’t expect this when you’re just trying to go about your day.”

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male with a slim build and an unshaven face. Authorities have released a description in the hope that the public will help identify the individual. The stolen vehicle is registered with the plate **AFM362**, and police are urging residents in the surrounding areas to be vigilant for the SUV or any suspicious behavior that may be related to the case.

Although the woman was not seriously injured during the incident, she was left shaken by the encounter. Police have not confirmed whether surveillance footage from the school or nearby homes and businesses has provided leads. Still, investigators remain hopeful that community assistance will play a key role in resolving the case.

Authorities are reminding the public that incidents like these, although rare in suburban school zones, do happen and require vigilance. The brazen nature of the crime taking place in a school car park during a busy morning drop-off period raises concerns about public safety, particularly for parents and young children who are often distracted during these routine activities.

The investigation remains ongoing. Victoria Police have asked anyone with information to come forward and assist. Individuals who may have seen the suspect or the vehicle around the time of the incident are urged to contact **Crime Stoppers at 1800 333 000** or make a report via the **Triple Zero (000)** emergency line if the situation is urgent.

As police work to locate the offender, the incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of community awareness and the need for stronger deterrents against opportunistic crimes. Investigators are continuing to canvass the area and follow up on all available leads.