

INCREASED SECURITY ON VICTORIAN TRAINS & STATIONS

BRIEF

In recent times Victoria has experienced a boom in crime rates on its railway systems. In 2005 Yarra City introduced the "Encouraging and Increasing Walking Strategy"¹ targeting the high-risk areas of: Sandringham, Frankston, Cranbourne and Pakenham lines.

Although numerous strategies have been introduced the high level of violence on and around the train system is still a major public concern. The railway has become a home of crime violence and drugs discouraging public use.

In New York, considerable police presence significantly decreased the subway crime rates², which strongly suggests that a similar strategy will assist in addressing the problems facing Melbourne's train commuters. This Bill proposes that, similar to the system in New York there will be a major increase in the security presence not only at train stations but also on trains. Furthermore the safety at train stations and the vicinity surrounding them will be upgraded to make facilities safer and more accessible.

It is believed, and statistics have shown³ that with the proposed changes made to the current railway system there will be a dramatic decrease in the crime rates. Making train stations more accessible and by providing a strong security presence, the stations are establishing preventative measures to combat potentially threatening situations before they escalate.

¹ www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Council/Meeting/pdf/agenda05/020805pcd/2.9ATT1i.pdf

² www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story0,,24329422-28-62,00.html

³ www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story0,,24329422-28-62,00.html

A Bill for an act relating to Increased Security on Victorian Trains and Stations

To be enacted by the Victorian Youth Parliament

Part I

- Clause 1:** Purpose
This Bill shall be cited as Increased Security on Victorian Trains and Stations
- Clause 2:** Commencement
This Bill will commence 12 months after it receives assent from the Youth governor of Victoria
- Clause 3:** Interpretation
In this Bill, unless the contrary intension appears,
Behaviour Management- Training Program shall mean a program targeted to teach strategies of conflict resolution
Closed Circuit Television CCTV shall mean the use of video cameras to transmit a signal to a specific place, on a limited set of monitors
Premium station shall mean a station that is staffed from first train to last, every day of the year. Premium stations have a customer service centre.
Replacement bus shall mean a bus that services the same general area of a train line
Security employee shall mean a Public Transport Authority employee that's specialised in the security on trains, and train stations
Train line shall include both metropolitan on rural services
Upgraded shall mean improvements made to premium stations to allow for greater wheelchair access, staff accessibility, information services and enclosed waiting areas and toilets.
Vicinity shall mean the area surrounding a train station, such as paths and car park area

Part II

- Clause 4:** There shall be improved security on Victorian trains and stations
- Clause 5:** Station platforms will be patrolled by Public Transport Authority employees
- 5.1** Two employees shall be present at every train station at all times
- 5.2** Three employees shall be present on every running train at all times
- 5.3** After 6pm the amount of security at all train stations, and on all trains shall increase by 20%
- 5.4** The amount of staff shall be increased, or decreased depending on public demand

5.5 On the completion of the program employees shall intervene with the necessary force, if persons act in a manner deemed to be endangering the persons or property of others

Clause 6: A Behaviour Management-Training Program will be provided to all security employees of the Public Transport Authority

6.1 All new and pre existing staff must successfully complete the Behaviour Management-Training Program

6.2 All security employees must successfully complete a renewal program in every 12-month period

Clause 7: 40% of stations on each train line will be a premium station

7.1 Facilities will be constructed at all train stations that do not already have pre existing infrastructure

7.2 All premium stations will be upgraded

7.3 During the construction at train stations replacement buses will be provided to train users equipped with an equal amount of security

Clause 8: CCTV will be installed at all stations and the surrounding vicinity

8.1 CCTV will be monitored by security employees

8.2 All footage that is deemed to show behaviour that is threatening to persons or property will be provided to the closest police station

8.3 Additional hidden cameras shall be installed on all trains

Clause 9: Sufficient lighting will be established in the vicinity of all train stations

9.1 Lighting will be maintained by the Public Transport Authority

Clause 10: An advertising campaign will be established to inform all train users of changes to the train system

Clause 11: Penalty units will be increased by 20% for persons convicted of behaviour in a manner that is deemed to be endangering the persons or property of others, in the vicinity of all trains and train station