

Media release

Sunday, 29 May 2011



Fare evaders not free to travel

With fare evaders taking more than 225,000 trips each weekday on Victoria's public transport network, Metlink is stepping up its fight against fare evasion today with the launch of a new advertising campaign.

The campaign includes a television commercial that depicts fare evaders as scribbled out images that have no right to travel on Victoria's public transport network.

Metlink spokesperson Michelle Herbert said with 13 per cent of passengers not paying their way, the carrying capacity of hundreds of trains, trams and buses are being taken up by freeloaders.

"Fare evaders are occupying valuable space that rightly belongs to fare-paying passengers," Ms Herbert said.

"Worse still, they are costing the Victorian community \$80 million a year. This is lost money that could be used to pay for new vehicles and extra services.

"They are not only ripping off the system, they are ripping off the people who do the right thing and always travel with a valid ticket."

With fare evasion at its highest point in five years, Authorised Officers have also increased enforcement efforts. In the first four months of this year, more than 2.6 million tickets were checked, while around 36,000 fines for ticketing offences were issued by the Department of Transport.

"Our recent efforts have made some inroads into reducing fare evasion, but this is a long term problem that requires a long term solution," Ms Herbert said.

"Through joint enforcement and marketing activities we want to send a clear message that fare evasion will not be tolerated. For those who choose not to pay their way, the increasing likelihood is that they will be reported and face fines."

Fare evasion includes passengers travelling without a valid ticket, tickets that are not validated, concession tickets without an entitlement, expired tickets or tickets for the wrong zone.

Adults found travelling without a valid ticket face fines of \$176 (\$60 for those under 18).

To view the new Metlink television commercial visit www.youtube.com/metlinkmelbourne. Information on fares and ticketing is available from metlinkmelbourne.com.au or by calling **131 638** 6am – midnight daily.

—Ends—

Media enquiries: 0466 017 500

Metlink is a partnership of Melbourne's train, tram and bus operators which provides customers with a one-stop-shop for information about services, fares and ticketing. Owned by the tram and train operators, Metlink Victoria Pty Ltd is a private company that provides services for train, tram and bus operators and the Victorian Government. The organisation will extend its marketing and customer information activities to regional areas through Viclink.