

If you see something, say something.



Fact Sheet

Is Melbourne's public transport system a terrorist target? Is it vulnerable to terrorist attack?

Cities of Melbourne's size across the globe are increasing security measures. While we do not believe that Melbourne is a specific target, we would be foolish not to prepare for an incident. This initiative has been planned for some time.

If there is no specific threat, why focus this campaign on public transport?

Every weekday about 1 million trips are taken on Melbourne's public transport system. These passengers can help to watch out for suspicious activity. The government provides the personnel, the resources, the training and the equipment to respond to a range of threats, but we all need to play a part in keeping Victoria safe.

Basing a campaign on public transport is an efficient way to get the safety message to a large number of people. This is a logical first step in raising awareness and getting people to report suspicious activity.

What activity should staff or the public report?

Any activity that is suspicious or out of the ordinary. These include:

- Unattended packages;
- Suspicious activities; and
- Individuals or groups:
 - Showing significant interest in the location of CCTV cameras and control areas
 - Taking pictures of or notes about public transport security measures
 - Remaining in vehicles outside buildings for long periods of time.

Who can report suspicious activity?

Anyone can report suspicious activity. Transport commuters who regularly travel between locations are ideally placed to observe suspicious activity and report information. Transport staff are encouraged to observe and report suspicious activity.

What does the campaign involve, how much will it cost and how long will it run?

The first phase of the campaign will run until Christmas and involves posters at stations, in buses and on trams, advertising in MX and at 150 bus and tram shelters. Public transport staff will be issued with badges to aid identification by the public. The campaign is costing approximately \$200,000.

Further measures will be explored as the campaign continues.

What other measures will accompany this initiative?

This is part of a series of activities by the Victorian Government working in partnership with industry to continue to improve public safety and security.

The government is examining through expert independent review a range of measures to enhance transport security.

Will this create any delay or disruption in the system?

The security of the transport system and the Victorian public is paramount. Some services may be delayed or cancelled as suspicious activities are investigated. We apologise for that and ask people to be patient and bear with us as we work to keep the system as safe as possible.

The operators will do their level best to ensure that customers are kept informed as much as possible of changes to services. The operators will not be penalised under the performance regime for any such disruption.

How quickly can police respond when they receive a report about suspicious activity on the public transport system?

Police will respond as quickly as necessary, depending on the nature of the "activity" being reported and the other priorities they may be dealing with at the time.

Why are you directing people to call 000 rather than the national security campaign 1800 number?

The national 1800 number is about gathering security intelligence about activities in the community that could be considered a threat to national security.

We are asking people to call 000 if they see something that could be an immediate threat to the security of the public transport system. Calling 000 will ensure an appropriate response.

How does this fit with the Commonwealth effort?

It is complementary to the Commonwealth program of security initiatives. The *See Something, Say Something* campaign invites the general public to work with us to keep Australia secure through the observations they may make in their daily lives.

What further information and awareness will be provided to assist in helping to report suspicious activity?

The Victorian Government is working with transport operators to improve staff awareness and training to help prevent emergencies and respond effectively.

The Government is sponsoring a comprehensive training package with the major operators which will cover identifying, reporting and responding to suspicious activity.

What public transport security improvements have already been made?

Measures taken to date include:

- Public transport operators are undertaking continuous reviews and updates of their emergency management procedures to incorporate prevention, response and recovery plans to terrorist attacks
- Declared Essential Service transport operators under Part 6 of the *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003*, are required to prepare risk management plans that take into account the threat of terrorism. DOI is assisting operators in the finalisation of these plans
- An expert led review of security risk management of Victoria's transport industries is being conducted. This review, to be completed in September 2005, is examining current practices and will identify any gaps in capability.
- The State Government through the SCOT Transport Security Working Group, is leading contributions to a national surface transport security assessment to be prepared for COAG in September. This is likely to include recommended national actions to improve surface transport measures consistent with Victoria's obligations under the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Surface Transport security.