

# POLICY STATEMENT: PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

25 August 2017

## GSA position

GSA believes that all full-time Victorian graduate students should have access to student public transport concessions. Student travel concessions help postgraduate students to afford the necessary transportation to travel to and from their educational institutions, workplaces, homes and social destinations.

## Rationale

### Victoria is out of step

- The Victorian government has not kept pace with the changing educational landscape by appropriately supporting postgraduate students. Victorian postgraduate students are the only full-time students in Australia who are not granted student public transport concessions.
- Extending public transport concessions to postgraduate students would bring Victoria in line with other Australian states and territories, promote equitable access to higher education, and make Victoria a more attractive destination for local and international students.

### Graduate students are struggling

- Full-time graduate students have limited capacity to earn money due to the requirements of their study, and are in a similar financial situation to full-time undergraduate students, but are not given the same access to concessions.
- Almost half of full-time graduate coursework students have incomes below the poverty line

### Cost of public transport

POLICY	CATEGORY	REF	AMENDED/ CREATED	NEXT REVIEW
Public transport concessions for graduate students	Social justice and equity	1.1	December 2016	December 2018



- Public transport fares in Melbourne are on average the most expensive in Australia, making the cost even more difficult for graduate students to meet
- In the 2016-17 financial year, Victoria forewent a revenue of \$154 million for public transport concessions.

## Fares Fair PTV campaign

Fares Fair PTV is a coalition of postgraduate student associations working to secure public transport concessions for postgraduate students. It is a student-led campaign, with members from the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, the University of Melbourne Graduate Student Association (GSA), the Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA), the Victoria University Postgraduate Association (VUPA) and the Swinburne Student Union (SSU). Visit <http://faresfairptv.com.au/> for more information.

## Relevant research and information

[Victorian Public Transport Student Concession Card](#)

[University student finances in 2012: A study of the financial circumstances of domestic and international students in Australia's universities](#)

[Department of Treasury and Finance 2016, \*Getting it Done: Victorian Budget 16/17 Statement of Finances\*](#)

[Fares Fair PTV](#)

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