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Office of the Mayor Cr Simone Zmood

9 June 2026

Hon Gabrielle Williams
Minister for Public and Active Transport
gabrielle.williams@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Williams,

I am writing on behalf of Glen Eira City Council to express our support for the Monash Graduate Association's call to extend public transport concession entitlements to graduate (Masters and PhD) students in Victoria.

Glen Eira is home to a significant and growing graduate student community, particularly around Monash University's Caulfield campus. These students contribute strongly to our local economy, workforce and community life. Many also face real cost-of-living pressures as they balance intensive study, part-time work, placements and, in some cases, caring responsibilities.

Unlike undergraduate students, graduate students are currently excluded from public transport concession fares in Victoria. This creates a clear equity gap and disproportionately impacts low-income students, those living further from campus due to housing affordability pressures, and international students who are not eligible for other forms of support.

Victoria is now out of step with every other state and territory, all of which offer some level of concession support to full-time graduate students. We believe this presents an opportunity for the State Government to show leadership and ensure that the Education State continues to support all learners equitably.

While temporary fare relief measures have provided some short-term support, a permanent and consistent solution is needed. Public transport affordability remains a key lever for improving access to education, workforce participation and community connection. Young people and students are heavy users of public transport and want better, more accessible alternatives to cars.



Recent community engagement shows that around two-thirds of respondents consider it very important for Council to advocate for improved public transport, reinforcing the importance of affordability and access for students and young people.

Our support for this reform aligns with the Glen Eira *Council Plan 2025–2029*, particularly our commitment to creating diverse, welcoming and accessible places, and making it easier for people to move around our city. It also reflects our Glen Eira *2040 Community Vision*, including working together with partners and responding proactively to emerging challenges. Further, it is consistent with our *Advocacy Priorities 2025–2026*, which call for increased investment in public transport to improve access to education.

We note that similar support for this reform has already been expressed by the City of Melbourne. We encourage the Victorian Government to work with councils, universities and the graduate student sector to deliver a fair and inclusive concession framework.

We would welcome the opportunity to continue working with the Monash Graduate Association and other stakeholders to support this advocacy and strengthen outcomes for the graduate student community in Glen Eira.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simone', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

CR SIMONE ZMOOD
MAYOR GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

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