

Southern Metropolitan Region No 352

Legislative Council
60 Parliament First Session

Question

Asked: 17 August 2023

Constituency Questions

KATHERINE COPSEY — To ask the Minister for Water (for the Minister for Public Transport):

(352) My constituency question is to the Minister for Public Transport. Minister, in the middle of a severe cost-of-living crisis the government raised Myki fares last month, increasing daily fares to \$10. In my constituency Monash Uni postgrad students have raised with me that not only has the fare rise impacted students that were already struggling with costs but the postgraduate students face the unfair situation that they are ineligible for student travel concessions, unlike in New South Wales, where travel concessions are available for undergrad and postgrad tertiary students. At the time of announcing the fare rises the government said they:

... know that many Victorians are dealing with cost-of-living pressures.

... and we'll continue to provide a range of discounts and concessions so that the cost of travel is fair for all Victorians.

Minister, given that statement, will you extend public transport concession fares to postgrad students, and if not, why not?

Answer

Answered: 21 September 2023

I thank the Member for Southern Metropolitan Region for her question.

The Victorian Government has very generous concession ticketing arrangements. However, with public transport heavily subsidised – Victorian taxpayers cover around two thirds of the operating costs of the metropolitan network – it is important that concessions target those most in need.

Every dollar collected from fares is reinvested in the public transport network.

Postgraduate students can travel on a concession fare if their circumstances make them eligible through another concession category, such as being the recipient of a Disability Support Pension or Carer Payment, or being a Health Care Card holder.

Our government has also extended concessions to international students, providing further cost of living relief to students across the state.

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry and Innovation

Minister for Manufacturing Sovereignty

Minister for Employment
Minister for Public Transport