



Department of Transport and Planning

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Madeleine Harradence
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Dear Madeleine

GRADUATE CONCESSIONS

I refer to your letter to the Hon Gabrielle Williams MP, the former Minister for Public and Active Transport, on 25 June 2026 about graduate concessions. Your letter has been referred to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for response.

I appreciate your request for more support for the next generation of nurses and midwives and acknowledge the concerns you and the Monash Graduate Society have raised about post graduate students accessing concession fares.

There have been several recent and current initiatives that have supported all Victorians, including postgraduate students, with the cost of public transport. Free public transport in April and May, half price fares from 1 June and the regional fare cap have helped, and will continue to help, many Victorians by significantly reducing public transport costs.

Victorian postgraduate students are entitled to a concession if they are a permanent resident and hold a Victorian Health Care Card issued by Services Australia. This ensures that financial assistance is equitable and targeted to people most in need. There are no plans at this time to provide postgraduate students with concessions that are not means tested.

Revenue from fares covers only approximately 15 per cent of network running costs in Victoria, with the rest provided by taxpayers through the State Budget. Every journey is already heavily subsidised. The Government regularly considers whether existing fares and tickets can be improved to better balance equity and simplicity with the need to collect revenue that contributes to the cost of operating the public transport network. As part of this process, the Government needs to assess the cost to taxpayers of any reduction in public transport fares, such as extending concessions fares to postgraduate students, against other competing budget priorities.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jules Flynn
Executive Director, Integrated Strategy

Date: 13/08/2026

