

MAKING THE BEST OF YOUR FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Victorian Government is providing free public transport for Seniors Card holders during the Victorian Seniors Festival 2007.

Using free public transport?

To make the best of the free transport, remember:

- Travel outside the busy weekday morning and evening peak hours – it will be more comfortable for you.
- The public transport network is still carrying its everyday travellers and with extra people on board services it will be busy
- Getting a seat may not be possible
- Book early to travel in the country
- Plan your trip
- Always carry your Victorian Seniors Card with you at all times

Metropolitan Transport

Metropolitan trams, buses and trains will be free for Victorian Seniors Card holders from Sunday 7 to Sunday 14 October. For their comfort and to ensure they can get a seat, seniors are encouraged to avoid using services arriving in Melbourne before 9am and departing Melbourne between 4pm and 7pm on weekdays. Free metropolitan travel includes the parts of the metropolitan area served by V/Line trains to Melton, Sunbury and Craigieburn.

Please make sure you travel with your Victorian Seniors Card at all times.

Regional Transport

Free travel on V/Line rail and coach services will be available on:

- Tuesday 9 October
- Wednesday 10 October
- Thursday 11 October
- Saturday 13 October
- Sunday 14 October

Free travel is valid on Economy class services only and seniors travelling for free during the Seniors Festival cannot upgrade to First class.

RESERVATIONS ON V/LINE SERVICES

Seat reservations are now compulsory on all long-distance V/Line rail services and some coach services.

Trains requiring compulsory reservations include: Albury/Wodonga, Ararat, Bairnsdale, Echuca, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Warrnambool services.

Reservations are also required for journeys to many regional cities and towns (Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Moe, Morwell, Seymour and Traralgon) close to Melbourne served by long-distance trains. Reserved services are marked with an 'R' in V/Line timetables.

Reservations for the Seniors Festival free travel open on Tuesday 4 September at 10am. Reservations will be restricted to one return journey for up to 4 Victorian Seniors Card holders. The entire journey should be confirmed at the time of booking to avoid disappointment.

Reservations can be made at your closest staffed V/Line station or V/Line ticket agent, Connex Premium station or by calling 136 196

Once booked, tickets must be collected no later than 48 hours after the reservation was made. If you have made a seat reservation but find you are unable to travel, please call 136 196 as soon as possible so the ticket can be re-allocated.

UNRESERVED V/LINE SERVICES

On unreserved V/Line train and coach services, simply produce your Victorian Seniors Card to the conductor or coach driver to travel for free. Unreserved V/Line services include V/Line rail services commencing or terminating at Ballarat, Bendigo/Eaglehawk, Marshall, Traralgon and Seymour and most V/Line coach services. To find out which services are reserved, visit your local staffed V/Line station or V/Line agent, call 136 196 or visit www.vline.com.au

REGIONAL BUS SERVICES

Free travel will be available on all regional bus services (**excluding V/Line coaches**) for eight days from Sunday 7 to Sunday 14 October 2007.

Seniors do not need a ticket, and must simply show their Victorian Seniors Card upon request.

Group travel

If you are planning to travel in large parties of 12 or more call V/Line to ensure that seats will be available on both reserved and unreserved services. Limits to group travel may apply if space is not available.

Please call 9619 2338 after 10am on Thursday 7 September 2007.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS FOR VICTORIAN SENIORS

Aside from free travel during the Victorian Seniors Festival, Victorian Seniors Card holders are entitled to the following public transport concessions at other times:

THE SENIORS SUNDAY PASS

On Sundays, Victorian Seniors Card holders can travel free on: · Metropolitan trains, trams and buses in Zones 1+2 · The town bus networks of major regional cities, such as Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura and Warrnambool.

Apply today for your Seniors Sunday Pass in person at any Connex Premium station, staffed V/Line station or The MetShop. You can also apply online at www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

CONCESSION FARES ON V/LINE AND COACH SERVICES

Victorian Seniors Cardholders are eligible for concession fares on V/Line train and coach services at all times. Please note that Off-Peak Concession fares are not available on weekends.

OFF-PEAK FREE TRAVEL VOUCHERS

All Victorian Seniors Card holders receive two Off-Peak Free Travel Vouchers that can each be exchanged for two single journeys or one same day return journey on V/Line train and coach services in Victoria.

For more information on the Seniors Sunday Pass, contact Metlink on 131 638

For more information on V/Line services, contact 136 196

For more information on Seniors Cards, contact Seniors Card on 1300 797 210

PASSENGERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Personal assistance on metropolitan train services is available from Premium Stations. Call Connex on 1800 700 105 for details
- Disability services – for assistance at Southern Cross Station (previously Spencer Street station) call 9670 2072
- Most V/Line trains and coaches can be accessed by wheelchair please call 1800 800 120 a minimum of 24 hours in advance of travel to confirm your space
- Telephone 1800 012 061 to book a wheelchair accessible bus which runs between St Kilda, Port Melbourne, Flinders Street Station and Southern Cross Station (previously Spencer Street station)