

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry and Innovation
Minister for Manufacturing Sovereignty
Minister for Employment
Minister for Public Transport



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KEEPING SAFETY ON TRACK THIS RAIL SAFETY WEEK

Victorians are being urged to take care and avoid distractions and risky behaviour on the public transport network, with new data showing thousands of passengers are putting themselves at risk.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll was at North Melbourne Station to mark the beginning of Rail Safety Week 2023. This year's theme is *Stand Back, Look Up, Stay Rail Safe*.

New data shows almost 2600 people trespassed across Melbourne's train network in the 12 months to July this year – more than seven per day – down six per cent from 2022.

Trespassers cause significant disruptions on the network. One trespasser can delay thousands of passengers while operators check the line to ensure it is safe to resume services – with a trespasser in the city loop delaying up to 50,000 people.

Across Australia, between 2016 and 2022, there were an average of 84 fatalities per year, or seven per month.

Operators support public transport staff impacted by trauma from incidents across the network with counselling, peer support and mental health first aid training.

For more information visit, tracksafefoundation.com.au and if you need help call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll

"Safety is paramount on our public transport network – thanks to the thousands of staff who do an amazing job keeping passengers safe."

"The decision to take a risk on our rail network has far reaching impacts. Please stay safe by putting your phone away when on the platform, staying behind the yellow line, and staying alert around public transport."

Quote attributable to Metro Trains CEO Raymond O'Flaherty

"We're here to get you where you need to go, but we all have a part to play in staying rail safe. Stay aware of your surroundings to make sure we can all travel safely."