

Focused On What Matters Most

Victorian Budget 2025/26

Saturday, 17 May 2025

FREE TRANSPORT FOR SENIORS ON WEEKENDS – EVERYWHERE

The Allan Labor Government is focused on what matters most – easing the cost of living by reducing the cost of public transport.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* will make public transport free on the weekend for Seniors Card holders, statewide.

It's a change that means seniors can visit family, enjoy a day out with the grandkids, or experience all our state has to offer – without the extra expense.

From 1 January 2026, more than 650,000 seniors who use public transport will be able to catch a train, tram or bus for free on weekends – saving seniors who travel more than \$360 per year.

Currently seniors enjoy free travel on weekends in any two neighbouring zones, allowing for short trips such as from Morwell to Traralgon, from Macedon to Woodend, or within metropolitan Melbourne.

But Victoria's train network has 16 zones, so a senior from Ballarat can't access free travel to see her grandkids in Ballan, or a grandmother from Melbourne can't travel free to see regional galleries in Geelong or Bendigo.

The investment in this Budget will extend free travel to seniors anywhere across the state on weekends – from Wodonga to Warrnambool and everywhere in between.

Before the Labor Government introduced its regional fare cap in 2023, a daily concession fare from Bendigo to Melbourne cost \$24.08, and a daily concession fare from Albury to Melbourne cost \$41.20.

The regional fare cap slashed the cost of that fare significantly, and now from 2026, seniors on weekends will pay nothing at all.

Free travel for seniors on weekends is a huge boost for tourism across regional Victoria and will encourage more people to explore what this state has to offer.

Passengers with a senior myki will need to carry their Seniors Card while travelling and use their Senior Myki to touch on and off as usual – but myki cards won't be charged.

Cardholders will continue to be eligible for a 50 per cent discount off the full fare on weekdays.

For more than two years, Victorians have embraced the regional fare cap with more than 50 million trips taken – saving passengers more than \$132 million.

Senior passengers will also continue to benefit from almost 200 extra weekend V/Line services being delivered across the state since the regional fare cap was introduced.

To be eligible for a Seniors myki you must have a Victorian Seniors Card. Victorian Seniors Card holders must be permanent residents of Victoria, aged 60 or over and work less than 35 hours a week.

Quote attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"Costs can add up – especially for seniors – and I'm on their side."

"That's why we're making public transport free on weekends for seniors, saving them more than \$360 every year."

Media contact: Bodhi Droga 0413 701 929 | bodil.droga@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Minister for Public Transport Gabrielle Williams

“We’ve added hundreds more weekend services and now we’re making it free for seniors to travel on the weekend – making public transport an even better option, whether it’s for a trip to see family or to explore Victoria.”

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

“We’re focused on what matters most – easing cost of living pressures and making it easier for regional seniors to get around and visit loved ones.”