

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to submit a statement in support of extending the free tram zone to the University of Melbourne and the VCA campus at Southbank.

I believe that extending the free tram zone to these areas will be beneficial because:

- Tertiary students are often operating on very limited budgets due to increased costs of living and rising university tuition fees, so providing free public transport to them would free up money to be spent on other goods and services and take pressure off them
- Tourists wishing to visit either area will be more encouraged to use public transport to get there, particularly if they have mobility issues or young children in prams
- Those wishing to attend events at the Arts Centre/Sidney Myer Music Bowl/Botanic Gardens would be encouraged to take public transport there rather than driving in and contributing to congestion in the CBD
- It's a goodwill gesture to university students and tourists who wish to visit key tourist attractions in Melbourne
- This would free up PTV Authorised Officers to work in other areas
- Many international students live around the University of Melbourne, and are paying high tuition fees and rental costs, so this goodwill gesture would help them to feel more positive about their experience in Melbourne and potentially stay in Melbourne to work after their degree finishes

I hope that you will strongly consider extending the free tram zone to these key educational and tourism hotspots.

Yours sincerely,
Renata Ware