

The Executive Officer  
Economy and Infrastructure Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne 3002

Lisa Dunlop

20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Economy and Infrastructure Committee,

**Re: Public Transport Enquiry – Free Tram Zone**

I write to you today on behalf of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Peter Mac) in support of the free tram zone extension. Peter Mac is a public hospital situated in the Parkville Precinct dedicated to caring for people with cancer. Peter Mac employs 2,404 people and last year (FY 2018/2019) we saw 37,673 patients, most of whom come to Peter Mac on a regular basis for their cancer treatment and follow up.

It is well known that the financial burden of cancer is significant for patients and their families. People undergoing cancer treatment incur both direct and indirect costs associated with their treatment and unfortunately all too often their income is either reduced and or ceased during this time. Further, family members or carers attending appointments to support the patient are also often out of pocket. As such, anything we can do as a community to support people during this time to help them through their treatment would be strongly supported by Peter Mac.

Further to our patients, Peter Mac employs a wide range of staff members from patient facing, to kitchen staff, cleaners and administrative staff as well as having a number of students from Universities across Melbourne completing their placements. In our most recent staff survey, 55% of our staff reported catching the tram, train or a combination of both to work. Car parking at Peter Mac is congested and attracts high fees for our staff, so encouraging our staff to catch public transport is in the best interests of everyone and our environment. In the same survey, 61.4% of all staff answered that upgrades to public transport would influence how they travel, and 52.6% of staff indicated that discounted fares on public transport would positively influence their decision to take public transport.

Further to benefits for Peter Mac, we believe this would positively impact other residents of the Parkville Precinct, including the other hospitals, research facilities and the University of Melbourne all situated within the same area as Peter Mac.

Yours sincerely,

  
Lisa Dunlop