

POLICY STATEMENT: PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

24 September 2015

GSA position

GSA believes that all full-time Victorian graduate students should have access to student public transport concessions.

Rationale

Victoria is out of step

- At present, full-time domestic graduate students in Victoria do not get public transport concessions, while their counterparts in every other state do
- ACT, SA, NT, TAS and WA offer concessions to international graduate students (and undergraduates). NSW and QLD offer limited concessions for international students, which is not based on the level of their study: only Victoria offers no concessions at all for international graduate students

Graduate students are struggling

- Full-time graduate students are in a similar financial situation to full-time undergraduate students, but are not given the same access to concessions
- Almost half of full-time graduate coursework students have incomes below the poverty line

Cost of public transport

- Public transport fares in Melbourne are on average the most expensive in Australia, making the cost even more difficult for graduate students to meet

Relevant research and information

[Victorian Public Transport Student Concession Card](#)

POLICY	CATEGORY	REF	AMENDED/ CREATED	NEXT REVIEW
Public transport concessions for graduate students	Social justice and equity	1.1	December 2016	December 2017

[University student finances in 2012: A study of the financial circumstances of domestic and international students in Australia's universities](#)

[Fares comparison: January 2009](#)

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