Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Saturday, 12 October 2024

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR VICTORIA'S CARERS

Victorian Carer Card holders will be able to enjoy free public transport for seven days during National Carers Week thanks to support from the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence encouraged Victoria's dedicated carers to take advantage of free travel on trams, buses and trains throughout Victoria from Sunday, 13 October through to Saturday, 19 October.

Victorian Carer Card holders will be able to explore metro Melbourne and regional Victoria free of charge. This will help carers get to celebratory events for carers throughout National Carers Week and connect with family and friends.

Carer Card holders can use their carer myki card to touch on and off as usual, with no charges during this period. Carers will need to carry their Victorian Carer Card or a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card on public transport.

More than 750,000 Victorian unpaid carers provide care and assistance to a family member or friend with support needs due to disability, chronic illness, or older age.

National Carers Week runs from 13 to 19 October 2024 and is an important opportunity to recognise and celebrate carers of all ages and backgrounds, acknowledging the vital role they play in our community.

To apply for a Victorian Carer Card, visit <u>carercard.vic.gov.au</u>.

More information on the free public transport offer is available at ptv.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence

"We are offering free public transport this National Carers Week to help carers enjoy everything Victoria has to offer this spring."

"Carers often put their own needs aside to care for others, and it's important we acknowledge their unwavering support to friends and loved ones and celebrate them as much possible."

Quote attributable to Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams

"It's vital that carers carve out some time for themselves – and our extensive public transport system across Victoria will help them be able to get out and connect with others during National Carers Week."

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