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5 September 2012

Free travel for seniors during the Victorian Seniors Festival 7 – 14 October 2012

Victorian Seniors Card holders are eligible for free travel on public transport across the state during the 2012 Victorian Seniors Festival, which runs from Sunday 7 October to Sunday 14 October 2012.

Metropolitan services

Metropolitan trains, trams and buses will be free for Victorian Seniors Card holders from Sunday 7 to Sunday 14 October 2012 inclusive. Free metropolitan travel includes the V/Line services to Melton and Sunbury.

For their comfort and to ensure they can get a seat, Seniors are encouraged to avoid using services arriving in Melbourne before 9.00am and departing Melbourne between 4.00pm and 6.00pm on weekdays.

Victorian Seniors Card holders must carry their Victorian Seniors Card with them at all times when travelling during the Seniors Festival.

NOTE: Seniors Card holders from other Australian States and Territories are not eligible for free travel during the Victorian Seniors Festival. Normal concession fares will apply.

Seniors travelling on a Seniors myki will not be charged a fare when touching on and off the system during Seniors Week.

V/Line rail and coach services

Free travel on V/Line-operated rail and coach services will be available on:

- Tuesday 9 October 2012
- Wednesday 10 October 2012
- Thursday 11 October 2012
- Saturday 13 October 2012
- Sunday 14 October 2012

Free travel is available on Economy Class services only. Victorian Seniors Card holders travelling for free during the Seniors Festival cannot upgrade to First Class.

Reservations on V/Line services

Seat reservations are compulsory on all long-distance V/Line rail services and some coach services.

Trains requiring compulsory reservations include: Albury/Wodonga, Bairnsdale, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Warrnambool services. Reservations are also required for journeys to many regional cities and towns (Bendigo, Geelong, Moe, Morwell, Seymour and Traralgon) which are served by long-distance trains. Reserved services are marked with an 'R' in V/Line timetables.

Reservations for Seniors Week free travel open on **Tuesday 11 September 2012 at 10.00am**. Reservations will be restricted to up to 4 Victorian Seniors Card holders for one return journey. The entire journey should be confirmed at the time of booking to avoid disappointment. Reservations can be made at the closest staffed V/Line station or V/Line ticket agent, at a Metro Premium station or by calling **1800 800 007**.

Once booked, **tickets must be collected no later than 48 hours after the reservation was made**. If a seat reservation is made, but a Senior finds they are unable to travel, they should call **1800 800 007** as soon as possible so the ticket can be re-allocated.

Unreserved V/Line services

On unreserved V/Line train and coach services, Victorian Seniors Card holders can travel free by simply showing the conductor or coach driver their Victorian Seniors Card. This includes V/Line rail services commencing or terminating at Wendouree, Eaglehawk, Marshall, Traralgon and Seymour and most V/Line coach services. For more information on reserved and unreserved services, Seniors should:

- Check V/Line timetables
- Visit their local staffed V/Line station or V/Line agent
- Call **1800 800 007**
- Visit **ptv.vic.gov.au**

Travel on myki

It's important that Seniors touch on and off, even during periods of free travel.

All myki users need a positive balance on their myki in order to touch on and travel – including Seniors travelling on weekends or during free travel week. Seniors can top up with as little as one dollar at myki machines and myki retail outlets across Melbourne.

Regional town bus services

Free travel will be available on **all regional town bus services** for eight days from Sunday 7 October 2012 to Sunday 14 October 2012 inclusive. Seniors must simply show their Victorian Seniors Card to the driver upon request, as proof of eligibility for free travel.

Regional town bus services offering free travel for the above dates are:-

Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Beaufort, Bellarine Peninsula, Benalla, Bendigo, Cobram, Colac, Drouin, Echuca/Moama, Geelong, Hamilton, Horsham, Kilmore, Korumburra, Lakes Entrance, Mildura, Moe, Morwell, Portland, Rochester, Sale, Seymour,

Shepparton/Mooroopna, Stawell, Swan Hill, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warragul, Warrnambool, Wodonga, Wonthaggi.

Free travel is not available on other regional bus services outside these towns.

Group travel

If Seniors are planning to travel in large parties of 12 or more, they should call V/Line to ensure that seats will be available on both reserved and unreserved services. Limits to group travel may apply if space is not available. Seniors wanting to make group bookings should call **1800 800 007** after 10.00am on **Tuesday 11 September 2012**.

Useful travel tips for Seniors

- Seniors should travel outside the busy weekday morning and evening peak hours – it will be more comfortable and less crowded.
- The public transport network is still carrying its everyday load of travellers and with extra people on board regular services it will be busy.
- Getting a seat may not be possible at all times
- Seniors should book early to travel on V/Line services
- Seniors should plan their trip before they travel
- Seniors should always carry their Victorian Seniors Card with them at all times
- Seniors can use their myki card to enter/exit the system to avoid having to queue up at station barriers to exit and they will not be charged a fare during the free travel dates specified above.
- Seniors are also advised while they are out and about it's a good opportunity to top up their myki at a myki machine or myki retailer, so they have funds on their myki for the next time they travel.