



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## **COMMONWEALTH GAMES TICKETS DOUBLE AS TICKET TO RIDE**

A ticket to the 2006 Commonwealth Games will entitle people to travel on Melbourne's trains, trams and buses free on the day of the event, the Minister for Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, announced today.

With more than one million spectators expected to attend the Games, Mr Madden said including an entitlement of public transport to ticket holders was the best way to ensure the Games are easy to get to, as well as to reduce traffic and parking congestion in Melbourne.

"A Commonwealth Games ticket is also a ticket to ride on Melbourne's metropolitan trains, trams and buses," said Mr Madden.

"Public transport will be the most convenient, cost effective and worry free way for ticket holders to get to events."

The entitlement will also extend to Games family (athletes and officials) and Games workforce and volunteers for the entire Games period. Mr Madden said this was an important incentive for the expected 15,000 volunteers.

"Volunteers will be an integral part of the success of the Games and providing free public transport in Melbourne will assist them to undertake the vital support role they will provide.

"For spectators and volunteers alike, catching public transport will mean avoiding traffic jams and the risk of not finding a car park."

Minister for Transport, Peter Batchelor said the initiative would also deliver significant operational benefits.

"Queuing for public transport tickets will be minimised, and the need for Games ticket holders to validate tickets will be avoided," said Mr Batchelor.

"This will improve passenger movement and allow public transport interchanges to more efficiently deal with the large volume of spectators we expect for the Commonwealth Games."

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from 15 – 26 March 2006 and will bring together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations.

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