

Ethical consequences

Scenario outline

The Victorian state government has allocated \$400 million for an upgrade to existing tram, bus or train services to ensure increased access, reliability, passenger safety and convenience. To make a final decision, the government requires public feedback on how it should allocate this money, particularly identifying areas of greatest need. In no particular order, some ideas have already been proposed, and include:

- Employment, training and deployment of additional Public Safety Officers (PSOs) to all Victorian train stations from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am.
- Increased frequency of regional bus services (especially to remote communities) through the deployment of additional minibuses on routes that don't have many regular passengers. Additional services would mean that regional and remote communities could become more mobile and would have better opportunities for gaining employment and accessing essential community services, and safety when travelling at night would be increased.
- Free public transport for students, the unemployed, and people with disabilities. Young people from low socioeconomic families are most disadvantaged by not being able to afford public transport fares to and from school, employment and other community services from which they need assistance.
- Assistance for aged people and those with a disability to use public transport by adding more tram super-stops in urban areas, and/or increased 'door-to-door' minibus services (with disability access) within regional communities. The assistance scheme should consider ways of addressing the need for: (1) regular daytime service, (2) after-hours service and (3) alternative strategies for disrupted services.

