

MEDIA RELEASE



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Buses rev up for Safety Week

With more buses in circulation than ever before, Transport Safety Victoria (TSV) and BusVic are reminding the community that bus safety is a shared responsibility.

Bus Safety Week from May 1 to May 5, 2017, is a push by Industry and State to urge the public to take responsibility for safety as part of a wider message to promote bus safety.

“Bus Safety Week is about everyone taking responsibility for bus safety. Whether they are a car driver, school kids or the elderly catching buses,” said Stephen Turner, Director of Bus Safety with TSV.

“If you’re driving, you must give way to buses displaying GIVE WAY TO BUS sign merging into traffic. This is the law; this is not just a matter of courtesy. Being mindful of this will help to prevent any collisions and it will help the bus driver keep to the timetable,” Mr Turner said. “You need to give buses ample space and time for braking. A sudden stop can cause passengers to fall and injure themselves.”

As part of Safety Week, TSV and BusVic are also highlighting the hard work of bus drivers to keep everyone and everything moving safely and on time.

“Thursday 4 May is Bus Driver Appreciation Day. We’re encouraging passengers to make their bus drivers feel valued - a simple ‘Thank You’ would be appreciated,” Dr Chris Lowe, Executive Director Bus Association Victoria (BusVic), said.

TSV has jointly organised promotional activities for Bus Safety Week, with BusVic, other public transport operators, Victoria Police and Public Transport Victoria (PTV).

“Officers will be at major metro and regional bus interchanges with educational brochures and giveaways and talking to people about bus safety,” Dr Lowe said.

On Monday May 1, officers will be handing out safety materials at Box Hill Centro Bus Deck and Chadstone Shopping Centre bus Interchange. On Tuesday 2 May, they will be at Bendigo station and Doncaster Shopping Centre bus interchange. On Wednesday 3 May, officers will be at Sunshine, Highpoint Shopping Centre bus interchange, Franklin Street bus interchange, Traralgon and Geelong Station and at South Morang and Dandenong train station bus interchange on Thursday 4 May.

Dr Lowe and Mr Turner will be available for interviews.

For more information, interviews, or pictures, contact Janet Miller, A/Manager, Strategic Communications **M** 0437 583 305, **E** janet.miller@transportsafety.vic.gov.au

