



**DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTRE (INC.)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Disability Resources Centre welcomes Tram Stop Upgrades

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The DRC congratulates the Victorian Government on the announcement to upgrade the existing tram system, making it more accessible for people with disabilities. We are pleased that new island platforms will enable people with wheelchairs and mobility aids to travel independently to several Melbourne hospitals, cultural centres and places of education.

The Disability Resources Centre (DRC) is a member-driven organisation that is managed and staffed by people with disabilities. We promote the rights of people with disabilities through individual and systemic advocacy. We are currently conducting an Accessible Public Transport project investigating the major transport issues faced by Victorians with disabilities.

Throughout our consultation process we have recorded several examples of people with disabilities being unable to access essential services or popular destinations due to inaccessible trams. A mother living in a regional area shared that she regularly travels by train to Melbourne for hospital appointments with her son, yet there is no accessible public transport from the CBD train station to the hospital. She recalled being unable to exit the tram at the hospital, not knowing where the next accessible stop would be and whether she would arrive in time for the appointment, after travelling hours to get there. The new raised platforms will enable them to take the full journey from home to the hospital on public transport reducing the uncertainty, stress and cost they currently face. A significant improvement for this family and for countless others.

Whilst we believe these improvements are moving Victoria towards a more inclusive society, there is much more to be done. We look forward to the government introducing new trams and extending the existing 163 low-floor trams and approximately 420 raised stops, to make the network more accessible.

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