Report unwanted behaviours on public transport with STOPIT

If you have ever felt uncomfortable or threatened on public transport, you are not alone.

Anyone can be the victim of sexual harassment or anti-social behaviour in public spaces - including on trains, trams, and buses.

People often feel unsure about reporting these things to Victoria Police, but if it makes you feel unsafe in any way it's serious and should be stopped.

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To assist, Victoria Police has launched <u>STOPIT</u>: a text line which makes reporting in 13 languages discreet, easy, and completely confidential.

By reporting these behaviours you will help police identify offenders, improve protections and create a safer network for the entire community.

How does STOPIT work?

STOPIT is a service to report sexual harassment and anti-social behaviours on public transport via text.

After texting STOPIT to 0499 455 455, people receive a link to provide further details to a dedicated Victoria Police team who can investigate the issue.

Texts to the STOPIT line are not monitored live and if you need immediate police assistance you must call Triple Zero (000).





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What can you report?

You can report any form of unwanted sexual and anti-social behaviour which makes you feel:

- Uncomfortable
- Frightened
- Threatened.

These behaviours can be physical or verbal, indirect or obvious. They may be ongoing or occur during a single event.

Examples of unwanted sexual behaviour include:

- Stalking, staring or being followed
- Catcalling and sexual comments or gestures
- Pressing up against people or invading personal space
- Sexual assault.

You can also report other anti-social behaviours including:

- Suspicious behaviour
- Obscene, racist, or offensive language and behaviours
- Drug and alcohol incidents
- Property damage.

What can't you report?

STOPIT is for reporting non-urgent incidents on public transport.

Texts to the STOPIT line are not monitored live and if you need immediate police assistance you must call Triple Zero (000).

A STOPIT report is not the same as filing a formal crime report which requires speaking to a police officer, visiting a station, or contacting <u>Crime Stoppers</u> on 1800 333 000.

How to use STOPIT?

Using STOPIT is quick and simple, with reporting available in 13 languages:

- 1. Text STOPIT to 0499 455 455
- 2. You will receive a link to an online form where you can share details of the incident, such as the type of behaviour, when and where it occurred.
- Complete the form with the information you want to share. You also have the option to upload an image or video.
- 4. Submit and wait for a confirmation text.





After completing the form, a dedicated STOPIT team reviews the report and may call you if further information is required.

You might like to save the STOPIT phone number in case you, or someone you know, needs it in the future. No report is too small, and we will always take it seriously.

Is reporting private?

STOPIT reports are completely confidential and exclusively used to help police identify offenders on public transport and make the network safer for everyone.

Support services

For victims of unwanted sexual behaviour on public transport, support is available at <u>police.vic.gov.au/support-resources-sexual-offences-child-abuse</u>. These behaviours can be physical or verbal, indirect or obvious. They may be ongoing or occur during a single event.



