Minister for Transport Gerry McCarthy has today encouraged more people to travel on our buses after taking a ride with some of the Transit Security Officers.

"This program is a great success story ensuring our buses are safer," said Mr McCarthy.

"Transit Security Officer’s began travelling on buses in July 2008 ensuring the safety of both patrons and staff.

"Currently there are eight Transit Security Officers who have carried out over 80 removals and 33 arrests.

"These officers have the power to stop anti-social behaviour by directing a person to comply with rules of behaviour for travelling on a bus.

"If a person refuses to comply officers can then ask a person to leave a bus or if a person continues not to comply or is threatening in any way they may arrest or detain a person.

"They also work closely with First Response Officers, the Night Patrol and Police to ensure offenders are treated appropriately.

"Unfortunately bus drivers and passengers are sometimes targets for anti social and criminal behaviour.

"Transport Security Officers are not equipped with defensive equipment but have undergone verbal calming and controlling techniques.

"New recruits are currently being trained and all officer’s undertake continuous training to ensure they have the most up to date skills.

"Information collected by the Officers is complemented by CCTV footage from buses ensuring improved security on our bus network.


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