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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LET'S GET TRAIN SAFETY BACK ON TRACK**

Independent MLC Ann Bressington is calling for increased security on trains following a recent spate of violence and anti-social behaviour in the northern suburbs.

Ms Bressington is concerned by Transit Branch figures showing there were 81 incidents including assault, robbery and graffiti reported from July 1-December 31 2008, compared with 32 in the first half of the year.

Yesterday Ms Bressington was presented with a petition of over 200 signatures by the mother of an intellectually-disabled man who was severely beaten on a train late last year.

“These signatures, collected in just an hour and a half at two different train stations, are a clear demonstration that commuters have had enough and are demanding the Government take action,” Ms Bressington said.

“Regular commuters have told me they feel intimidated every day they travel on the line to work, school or university. It is totally unacceptable that these sickening assaults continue to occur and that decent people are living in fear.

“There are too few transit police at any one time to act as a deterrent to offenders, and while there are guards on trains after 7pm, they simply do not have the power to intervene, and these thugs know it.

“It is time for the Government to invest in public safety by granting broader powers for security guards and providing the money for extra transit police.

“There also needs to be an urgent roll out of driver-alert buttons which will provide threatened commuters with a way of seeking immediate help.”

Ms Bressington will be introducing a Motion to parliament next month demanding the Government properly address the issue.

**Further information please contact Ann Bressington on 0448 887 277 or Media/Liaison Officer Will Frogley on 08 8237 9596**