

I am a single parent with no other transport other than a cargo-cycle that I use to transport myself and my kids around.

I regularly transport my kids to school, the shops, and other activities in my area. Not only is the cycling infrastructure in the north crumbling beyond repair, much of it is not fit for purpose.

Cycling Infrastructure

Along Gowanbrae Drive, poorly designed dividers like this are not only hazardous (due to the 'speed hump' placed on them), but useless as they give little to no protection, and are regularly blocked by bins and/or cars:



On top of this, paths like the Western Ring Road Path, and Moonee Ponds Creek Trail are regularly covered with debris, broken glass, and overgrown with bushes and grass. This is far from safe, and I have had accidents because of poorly maintained infrastructure.

Lack Of Police Action

When cycling, the biggest danger is drivers refusing to adhere to the 1m rule. Regularly I am passed by cars who deliberately come within 1m of myself and my kids. I note down number plates and report this to police. Unfortunately, Victoria Police are disinterested in these reports. I ask for police to attend, they refuse to do so and advise I must go to a police station; something that is close to impossible for a single parent without a car living in my area. The closest police station where I can report these infringements is Fawkner, which I cannot take the time to do.

Despite my protestations, I am told that I need to get a 'dash cam', rather than my report being taken seriously. Meanwhile, other offenses are taken seriously by police.

This kind of clear bias by Victoria Police needs to be dealt with.

On top of this, I am regularly abused by drivers, even though I obey the law. I'm told to "get off the road", even though I am legally allowed to be on the road; I'm threatened with physical assault by drivers regularly; drivers regularly drive in bike lanes. I report all this to the police, but, yet again, they refuse to do anything about it.