

Commuters speak their minds in transport survey

City's worst stations

COMMUTERS have named Melbourne's worst railway stations — and what they don't like about them — in a survey.

The findings will be collated as part of a campaign to get better facilities at the city's 200 stations.

Improvements suggested by commuters are easy fixes: more shelter, functioning toilets, extra car

Ashley Gardiner
transport reporter

parks, better cleaning and staff.

The stations copping the most criticism included Balaclava, Footscray, Ringwood, Hoppers Crossing and Frankston.

The pt4me2 Better Stations survey is being run by the Metropolitan Trans-

port Forum, a council-based group.

MTF chairwoman Jackie Fristacky said the findings would be presented to the State Government.

"Already the survey is showing strong support for more shelter, better cleaning and toilets on stations," Ms Fristacky said.

"Stations are the beginning and end of every train

trip. We're looking for cost effective ways for the State Government and local councils to make them better."

Some respondents also complained about anti-social behaviour.

A commuter said of St Albans: "This is a horrible station with a lot of undesirable people accosting you and being a nuisance."

One commuter said of

Ringwood that they would like "less gangs and druggies at night".

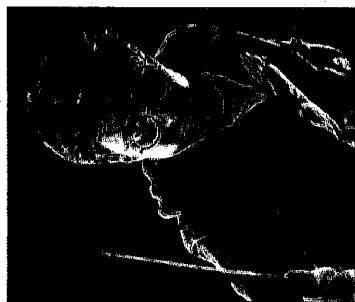
A spokeswoman for Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder said the Government had set up a station user panel for public input into planning.

The Government has funded improvements at stations including Balaclava, Beaconsfield and

Ringwood stations, as well as for new stations at Southland and Grovedale.

All stations were being assessed in the lead-up to the introduction of armed guards in stations.

"This information would be used when planning for station upgrades, spokeswoman Larissa Garvin said. Net link: www.pt4me2.org.au gardinera@heraldsun.com.au



Daniel Radcliffe

Potter fans in



Perfect part: Elise Swallow and Damon Rogan among the Potter props at the Jam Factory before last night's Melbourne premiere. Picture: CRAIG BORBOW