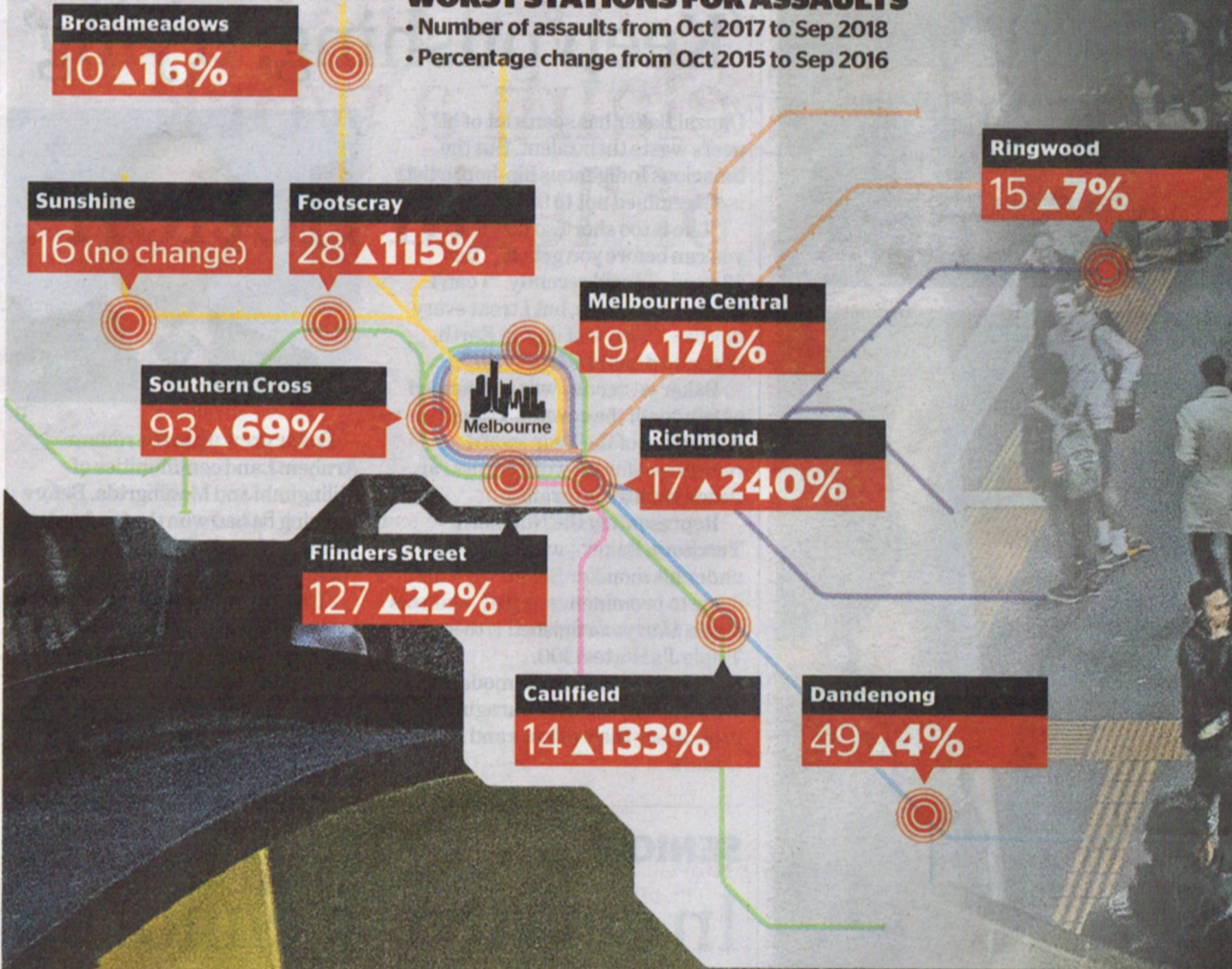


WORST STATIONS FOR ASSAULTS

• Number of assaults from Oct 2017 to Sep 2018
• Percentage change from Oct 2015 to Sep 2016



Public transport sex attacks surge

From Page 1

across all train stations. This is despite more than 1400 PSOs patrolling the city's stations, up from 1110 PSOs in 2014.

The number of sexual offences on trains, trams and buses rose by 60 per cent, from 210 to 332.

Assaults on buses and bus stops specifically increased by about 25 per cent to 257, while assaults on trams and tram stops rose by 19 per cent to 129.

Ms Maasarwe's murder followed a string of recent headlines

about sexual assault incidents on public transport.

In June last year, a woman in her late teens walking towards a tram was followed and dragged into a secluded CBD laneway, where she was sexually assaulted by a man in the early hours of the morning.

In September, two schoolgirls were violently attacked by the same man within a day, and in August a man masturbated in front of a woman and then punched another woman on the 86 tram.

Jill Perrett, a woman who said she was repeatedly sexually as-



'Transparency is really important.'

Nicole Kalms, transport safety expert

saulted on a peak-hour train last year, spoke out about being groped and followed on a train in an effort to urge other victims to "call out these creeps".

"Any behaviour to women at any time of the day, anywhere, is not acceptable," she said.

Transport safety expert Nicole Kalms, director of Monash University's YXX Lab, is now calling for a public register that would expose the most dangerous train, tram and bus lines and stops.

"We track how many trams and trains arrive on time ... I think we

need to do a similar thing for how many reported sexual assaults there are on all public transport.

"Transparency is really important because it helps us advocate for change and holds service providers accountable."

Dr Kalms, who has led research on public transport safety in Australia, said sexual assault on public transport was rampant, and the latest crime figures were just the tip of the iceberg.

A 2018 study by non-government organisation Plan International study found that nine

WORST STATIONS FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES

Oct 2015 - Sep 2018

Southern Cross	12
Flinders Street	11
Footscray	12
Melbourne Central	11
Dandenong	10

WORST STATIONS FOR STALKING, HARASSMENT AND THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

Oct 2015 - Sep 2018

Flinders Street	27 offences
Southern Cross	19
Dandenong	11
Melbourne Central	9
Noble Park	7

out of 10 Australian women who said they were sexually harassed on public transport did not report the crime to police.

Dr Kalms wants transport authorities to create an app where commuters could report sexual crimes, and have this followed up directly by police.

Carolyn Worth, from the South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault, backed calls for the public register and said a large-scale safety campaign on public transport that was "aimed at men as opposed to women" was needed.

Public Transport Victoria partnered with Victoria Police in 2017 to roll out the "Hands Off" campaign, which posted images of alleged offenders online to encourage commuters to report them.

Chief executive Jeroen Weimar said PTV would "look to do more campaigns like this in the future."

"Any form of sexual incident is totally unacceptable and we will not tolerate it," he said.

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