

15 February 20XX

To the Presiding Magistrate
Parramatta Local Court

I am very sorry for the offence before the court.

On 26 June 20XX, I was travelling home from TAFE. I took the 5.14pm western line train from Central Station to Harris Park Station, as I do every day. I arrived at Harris Park at about 5:44pm. When I was about to go through the gates to leave the station, I looked in my bag for my ticket. I was emptying my bag when the Transit Officers approached me. The first officer asked me for my ticket. I explained to him that I couldn't find my ticket, but I had purchased a weekly ticket on Monday morning as I do every week. The second officer said it was an offence to travel on the train without a ticket. I tried to explain that I had bought a ticket and that I would never travel without a ticket.

The transit officers said there was nothing they could do and issued me with a fine for \$200.00 for "Travelling without a valid ticket".

I am currently doing a Diploma of Hospitality Management at Ultimo TAFE. I am in my 2nd year, and have one more year to go.

I am not currently working and am receiving Youth Allowance. I receive \$388.70 per fortnight. From this money I pay \$37.00 per fortnight for my train ticket, \$160.00 per fortnight for rent and \$49.00 for my prepaid mobile. I am left with approximately \$141.00 per fortnight for food, my bills and spending. I do not have any assets. My liabilities include: rent, TAFE fees, and a credit card with a balance of approximately \$500.00.

I have never been in trouble with the police or any transit officers, and I have never been to court.

I have been involved with a local youth group in my area for about 2 years. We take part in fundraisers and every Easter and Christmas we help out at a homeless shelter by serving food.

I don't know what happened to my ticket and I accept that I should have been able to produce it when the transit officer asked to see it. I would never have intentionally travelled without a valid ticket.

I ask that the court consider the circumstances of the offence, my financial situation and my clear record and show leniency by waiving the fine.

Regards,

Radha J. Das

Radha Das