



Police claim record for nabbing escapees

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More than a day out from Commonwealth Games competition, Victoria Police have claimed a world record for nabbing bad guys.

Police won high praise from Victorian Premier Steve Bracks for pursuing on foot and on bicycle four teens who had escaped a detention centre near the Games athletes village before straddling a fence and entering the village.

The youths allegedly escaped from the nearby Juvenile Justice Centre in Parkville around 3pm on Tuesday.

Mr Bracks said police nabbing the young escapees in under 60 seconds amounted to something of a world record.

"If I could congratulate the police for the security arrangements in place, it showed that the security arrangements are working," Mr Bracks said.

"To apprehend a group of people in 60 seconds would have to be close to a world record.

"So, we not only have world records in Commonwealth Games, we have world records for security as well."

Victoria Police chief commissioner Christine Nixon said police securing the Games village had become aware of the escapees from the nearby detention centre when they were caught on security cameras.

"Obviously our people were off and running and on push bikes to make sure we could take them into custody," she said.

Mrs Nixon said the youths aged between 14 and 16 would be charged on summons with escaping from custody while police considered whether they would also charge them under special Games security laws.

She said it would be inappropriate to top the village fences with razor wire because that would make the athletes feel they were in custody.

"It is supposed to be a place where they feel comfortable in a reasonable environment," she said.



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