

Games security okay: police

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FOUR young escapees from a Melbourne detention centre who ran through the nearby Commonwealth Games village did not compromise security - they were there for only 40 seconds, police say.

Inspector Matthew Ryan, the officer in charge of the village police station, said the incident yesterday instead showed how effective the perimeter intruder detection systems at the village were.

Insp Ryan said the youths, aged 14-16, scaled several fences to escape a juvenile justice centre in nearby Parkville about 3pm (AEDT) yesterday. He said it did not appear the youths were directly targeting the Games village, and no athletes were nearby when the incident occurred.

Chased by police on foot and bicycles, the teenagers were in the village for 40 seconds before jumping another fence to get out, Insp Ryan said.

"The perimeter intruder detection system surrounding the village is how they came to the attention of the police and it was police from the village who arrested them...within three to four minutes of their departure," he said in a statement. "There is a highly visible police presence within the games village and everybody in this village is entitled to feel very safe with that presence."

More than \$225 million has been spent on security for the Games, which organisers have described as state of the art. A police statement said the four would be charged on summons with escape and trespassing offences.

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