

Break-in minor matter, says Nixon

16 March 2006 - Michael Warner

POLICE chiefs say there is no need to increase security at the Commonwealth Games athletes' village despite an embarrassing break-in by a group of runaway youths.

Four inmates from the Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre at Parkville scaled a fence and briefly entered the heavily-secured site housing about 5100 athletes and officials on Tuesday.

"It's a minor matter . . . they were in there for less than a minute," Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon said yesterday.

Ms Nixon said the swift arrest proved the efficiency of the village's security shield.

Premier Steve Bracks also downplayed the incident, suggesting the speedy capture by village police had been made in "world record" time.

The four youths -- aged 14 to 16 -- escaped from the juvenile centre and were chased by guards across a Parkville playing field before breaching the village perimeter. They are expected to be charged on summons with escape and special Games trespassing offences.

Australian chef de mission John Devitt said he had no concerns about his team's security.

"No matter where you go there are going to be chinks . . . what was great about (Tuesday) was that they got them in about 40 seconds," Mr Devitt said.

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