

## Young offenders break into Games village

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Melbourne Commonwealth Games officials were left severely embarrassed after a group of juvenile offenders broke into the heavily-secured athletes' village. More than \$225 million has been spent on security for the Games, which organisers have described as state of the art. But the group of four youths, who allegedly escaped from the nearby Juvenile Justice Centre in Parkville, managed to penetrate the village perimeter.

Victoria Police Inspector Matthew Ryan said the youths, aged between 14 and 16, scaled several fences of the Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre in Parkville about 3pm (AEDT). They jumped a fence at the perimeter of the village, ran across a field and exited by jumping another fence less than a minute after their arrival. Games officials remained tightlipped over whether the incident highlighted security concerns at the village, describing it as a "*police matter*". But Inspector Ryan said the fact the offenders had been caught so quickly was proof the system worked.

*"This afternoon there was a demonstration of just how highly effective the perimeter intruder detection systems here at the village are," he told reporters. "... and how co-ordinated the policing and security arrangements are when four people who managed to enter the village for less than forty seconds were arrested in three or four minutes of leaving the village."*

Inspector Ryan said it did not appear the youths were directly targeting the Games village, adding that there had been no athletes nearby when the incident occurred. He praised the work of police who apprehended the youths after following them on foot and bicycles.

*"Their motive was simply to use it as a means to transport themselves to somewhere else," he said. "The perimeter intruder detection systems around the village were how they came to the attention of police." And it was police from the village who arrested them south of the village, on Manningham Street, within three or four minutes of their departure."*

A police statement said the youths would be charged on summons with escape and trespassing offences.

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2006/03/14/1142098459798.html>