



# NSW Retired Teachers Association

11/465 Willoughby Road  
WILLOUGHBY NSW 2068

Taxi, private bus and private ferries reviews  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box Q290  
QVB Post Office NSW 1230

18 April 2002

## **Submission: Private Transport Fares**

The NSW Retired Teachers Association represents the interests of more than 4000 retired persons from all parts of New South Wales. Some members are almost dependent in the privately-run system for their transport.

This submission focuses on the social impact of any increase in fares on the aged citizens in our society.

The NSW Retired Teachers Association advocates strongly that the \$1.10 excursion ticket scheme be extended to the privately run transport system of buses and ferries. The government would need to subsidise the scheme to avoid loss of income by private operators.

## **Points in support of our submission**

1. The present fare structure discriminates against aged pensioners and, even more so, against senior's card holders on the basis of where they live. Any increase in fares will cause a rise in their cost of living and a lowering of their standard of living. Many have limited resources and could face considerable hardship.
2. Socially active older people are known to be healthier. With affordable fares older citizens are able to take part in a range of activities and maintain an interest in their society. On the other hand, with expensive fares they will remain confined to their homes where they become inactive and suffer more health problems.
3. In addition, older people carry out a lot of unpaid voluntary work in the community. With higher fares many people would be unable to continue this work, much of which could cease.
4. Keeping fares low encourages older people to use privately run public transport instead of cars. Fewer cars on the roads reduce pollution and could reduce the number of traffic accidents



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Thank you for the opportunity to express the views of members of the NSW Retired Teachers Association.

May Steilberg

*May Steilberg*

Honorary Secretary