

NSW Retired Teachers Association

11/465 Willoughby Road
WILLOUGHBY NSW 2068

19 May 2003

Mr. Dennis Maloney
Program Manager, Transport
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
Level 2, 44 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000.

Submission: Private Transport Fares Review 2003/04

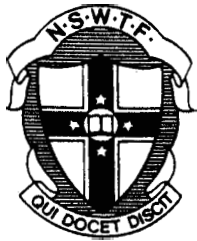
The NSW Retired Teachers Association represents the interests of more than 5000 retired persons from all parts of New South Wales. Some members are dependent on the privately run transport system for most of their travel.

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 public transport system of buses and ferries. There would need to be government subsidisation to avoid loss of income by the private operators.

Points in support of our submission

1. The present fare structure discriminates against aged pensioners and government senior card holders on the basis of where they live. Senior citizens reliant on privately run public transport are not necessarily wealthier. In addition any increase in fares would raise their cost of living so lowering their standard **of** living. With the limited resources of many older people this could cause increased hardship.
2. Socially active older people are known to be healthier. With affordable fares, older people are able to take part in a range of activities and maintain an interest in their community. If fares are expensive, they will remain confined to their homes. This will lead to inactivity and health problems and they will become a burden to their community.
3. Much of the activity **of** older people is in the form of unpaid voluntary work. Many organisations depend on their help. This is limited by the cost of transport. If the excursion ticket was available on the private buses and ferries, more seniors may become involved in voluntary work.



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4. Keeping fares low encourages older citizens to use privately run public transport instead of cars. Fewer cars on the road reduce pollution and could help reduce the number of traffic accidents.

In the 'IssuePaper April 2003' there appears to be no change in the fare structure for seniors from that stated in 2002, hence the above submission is similar to that given last year.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'May Steilberg'.

May Steilberg
Hon. Secretary.