

Author name: H. Matthews

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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam,

I work in the not for profit sector as Co-Ordinator for the Community Restorative Centre Court Support Scheme.

Referring to the GOLD OPAL CARD (aka Pensioner Excursion Ticket - PET). The majority of our 50 volunteers are senior citizens who donate their time each week, 50 weeks a year to assist people attending Local Courts all over Sydney, the Central Coast and Newcastle. This volunteering initiative was established in 1982.

In the recent financial year just over 43,000 court attendees were offered assistance by our volunteers.

Many senior citizens travel using the Gold Opal Card to deliver this valuable work and willingly waive the daily \$2.50 as their donation to CRC. Any increase in this transport fare or change to its eligibility will force these volunteers to reassess their financial ability to continue this essential work.

IPART I urge you to think carefully about what the community risks losing should the proposed changes to the GOLD OPAL CARD (PET) ticket go ahead.

Please remember seniors have paid their share of tax over many decades. Maintaining affordable public transport is not asking too much.

Quid Pro Quo IPART.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. Please acknowledge receipt.

Helen Matthews
CRC Court Support Coordinator

██████████
Mondays/Wednesdays

██████████
www.crcnsw.org.au

PS Copies to Mr. Peter Boxall Chair IPART, The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, Patron Community Restorative Centre, and The Hon. John Ajaka MLC - Minister for Volunteering.