

Author name: A. Dimitrakopoulos

Date of submission: Friday, 5 February 2016

Submission: To Whom It May Concern,

I have been living in Lakemba all my life (the last 40 years). I have seen transport go through many changes and I have caught public transport for most of my jobs and for my studies. I now rely on it to take my daughter to and from school. In the last few years we have enjoyed the family fun day Sunday tickets. Mr Dib has stressed and I and thousands of others agree, public transport (affordable especially) should not have to be a luxury, it is a necessity. When the Opal card was introduced, we were promised that transport fares would remain the same. My mother is a pensioner, I also work for a DR in Lakemba and most of our patients are on a pension. We are all familiar that many pensioners, especially those who pay rent, struggle everyday financially. Increasing travel costs will only add more stress. As a mum who works 15 hours a week, is a low income earner (and receiving only help to pay for my daughters after schoolcare from Centrelink) expensive transport is a stress that I also do not need. I have family members and friends who rely on public transport every day and they are also stressing about the pay fare increases. With others like me who are not as financially secure as they wish they could be, the thought of fare increases is damaging. Please do not allow these increases to take place. Traffic is also a nightmare, we need to keep as many people as possible off the roads to help relieve congestion. we should be encouraging more people to catch public transport, not forcing them back on the roads.

Thank you for your time,  
Angela Dimitrakopoulos