

Author name: A. Phu

Date of submission: Tuesday, 12 January 2016

Submission: The draft Review of Public Transport Fares in Sydney and Surrounds presents a fairer system for NSW Transport and commuters. However, the proposal for Gold Opal Card seems discriminate the seniors who are not Centrelink Pension recipients. Please consider that:

- 1) Not all seniors without a Pensioner Card are well-off: some just got redundant or retrenched at 60 and are no longer be able to find jobs while competing with recent graduates and other younger job seekers; also the Centrelink deeming rules are very rigid (or MEAN) that some people's assets & incomes (including the balance of superannuation (assets) and/or income streams drawn from superannuation (incomes)) are just touched the cut-off points of the tests that they are not entitled for a Pensioner Card from Centrelink.
- 2) The increase daily cap from the current \$2.5 to \$3.6 is a 44% increase that is much above any CPIs, in a sudden! It is more appropriate the increase could be made every year or two-year with a small increase amount as most pensioners have no income earning powers, the huge increase is a bit hit for them.
- 3) Keeping the current entitlements for a Gold Opal Card is more effective & efficient management for Opal Card system rather than inventing a new category of card "the Opal Concession Card" to the discriminated Seniors without a Pensioner Card.