

Alena Tetreault

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
Level 15, 2-24 Rawson Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear IPRT

I strongly object to the proposed changes to the seniors' public transport fares and to the Opal Gold Card!

I am 61, was self-employed until about a year ago. In my entire life I have never asked for any concession or help, not even at times when I found it very hard to get by. The Opal Gold Card and the \$2.50 a day train fare cap is the first thing that I am enjoying in a way of getting a bit of a break. The current fare structure makes it possible for me to get around, see friends who live close to the City etc, etc.

A lot of my friends share my opinion that a drastic change to the system as proposed by you in December 2015 would mean an immense difference to our lifestyle, will cause us to stay at home a lot more and will lead to our greatly diminished integration within the society, stopping us from taking part in various activities and seeing other people.

That would surely be enormously negative, no doubt in many cases leading to loneliness, depression, a sense of being isolated in our suburbs – as we would have to seriously evaluate whether we can or cannot afford to go somewhere or not and how often.

Considering that the seniors of my age group typically have no need to travel during the peak hours, we should not be that much of a burden to the system.

I strongly object to the proposed changes! I am going to approach my MP, share my views and ask for help in order to prevent these unfair changes. We worked for many decades, paid our taxes and typically represent a group within the society that has so far asked for very little.

Regards, Alena Tetreault