

Submission to IP&RT

Re: Concession Opal Card Cap

My concern is related to the costly cap being proposed on the Opal concession card for self funded retirees – many of whom receive their present Gold opal card as their only retirement compensation benefit. I hope that also there will be more publicised opportunity for seniors to comment – many do not have access to online forums and I have not seen any mention of these proposals in print, radio or TV.

The following are considerations that I hope will be taken into account before recommendations are made on this issue:

1. I had thought that one of the goals of public transport is to reduce the number of cars on our roads – but a couple facing a suggested cap of \$18 on their opal concession card would certainly opt to drive as a cheaper option.
2. Many volunteers who use public transport several times a week would certainly consider the cost of travelling to their volunteer activity as quite a burden.
3. As a safety issue – surely better for more elderly people to be using public transport instead of driving.
4. Socially many retirees only have the use of public transport to travel independently and keep in touch with friends or attend appointments.
5. I would imagine that most seniors are not travelling in peak hour, and are only using seats that would otherwise be vacant.

I do not understand why once again, self funded retirees, are being treated so differently to pensioners – as many are living very close to a pensioner income – but not receiving any of the discounts and assistance that is available to pensioners

I hope that all aspects of this fundraising will be considered before recommendations are made. I realise that the IP&RT are looking primarily at pricing – but I hope that the social and financial aspects of the proposed changes will be seriously considered

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