

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 January 2016 2:43 PM
To: IPART Mailbox
Subject: DRAFT REFORM FARE PACKAGE

To whom it May Concern,

I read with much dismay the findings and recommendations in relation to the Fare review which indicated significant changes for those using the Seniors Gold Opal Card.

In the forward to the 2016 Seniors Directory, Premier Baird made the following statement:

“Seniors make an exceptional contribution to our community, playing a vital role in our families and often as the backbone of our voluntary organisations and local neighbourhoods, and we want to assist you to continue to play your important role within the community. That is why the Government has committed additional funds to Seniors Card over the next four years to expand the program and deliver even greater benefits and opportunities to seniors.

The Government understands the importance of embracing our seniors and celebrating their achievements. We want to ensure NSW remains a safe place where seniors feel valued and respected. To do so, the NSW Government regularly consults the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing for feedback on our policies and ideas.”

I believe that the recommendation to increase the daily maximum fare for Gold Opal Card users by 44% clearly suggests that this view no longer exists and will need to be withdrawn.

What clearly beggars belief is the suggestion that those Seniors not in possession of a Pensioner Concession Card would be required to face a daily fare increase of 260%. This recommendation clearly ignores the fact that, in many cases, self-funded retirees do not qualify for a Pensioner Concession Card merely because their income slightly exceeds the income test (particularly in relation to “singles”) set, and increased annually, by the Commonwealth.

As a self-funded retiree (who does not qualify for a Pensioner Concession Card), who lives in rented accommodation and drives a 15 year old car, I find the recommendation offensive.

If the recommendation is accepted, it will mean I have to reduce my public transport travel by about 75%.

I could suggest that while still unpalatable, an increase to a \$3.60 daily cap for Gold Opal Seniors without a Pensioner Concession Card could probably be absorbed.

Compassion is a wonderful thing and so are votes in the upcoming election. Seniors Vote.

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