

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Thursday, 21 January 2016

Submission: I wish to lodge my objection to change the existing fare structure for holders of the Seniors Card proposed to be capped at \$9.00 per day in lieu of the existing \$2.50 per day cap for use of a Gold Seniors Opal Card.

This proposal will have a severe financial impact on those seniors who do not receive a pension. Seniors who do not receive a pension are primarily self funded retirees who in many instances are in a worse off financial position than those on the pension. Self funded retirees are reliant in most cases on investments which are paying low interest rates and resulting in severe financial strains on their day to day living.

At present a senior who travels by public transport at least five days a week would @ \$2.50 per day pay \$12.50 for the five days or \$25.00 per couple. Under the IPART proposal where travel would be increased to cap at \$9.00 per day the cost for five days is \$45.00 or \$90.00 per couple. This will significantly impact on seniors finances and is an outlandish and unjustifiable increase and provides no incentive for seniors to use public transport when the government is encouraging people to use public transport. Governments in many countries around to world provide cheap and ion some cases free concessions to seniors. It appears IPART is intent on making the use of public transport in NSW unaffordable for many who have are always being affected by increases imposed by this so called independent body which is just a front for the government to hide behind when it is seeking to increase costs. Maybe IPART should be reviewed and assessed as to its benefit to the voters of NSW