

Dr. Peter Boxall,

Your recommended changes for eligibility for the Gold Opal Card limit access to people who hold a "Pensioner or War Widow/ers Card". Currently the Gold Opal Card is also available to people who are eligible for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. Is it intended to exclude holders of the CSHC from receiving a Gold Opal Card at \$3.60?

We do not object to an increase in the daily rate to \$3.60 but feel very strongly if holders of the CSHC are excluded from the proposed Gold Opal Card. We use public transport regularly for shopping, medical appointments, minding grand children and social outings. Any increase in fares above the proposed \$3.60 to \$9.00 would affect us seriously.

Many holders of the CSHC are marginally ineligible for an age pension and its many benefits. It is, however, the benefits attached to the age pension card that encourage many people to "arrange their assets" in order to be eligible. Not only should such action be discouraged, it also adds to the growing drain on the Government's social security budget.

Thank you for considering our concern.