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Submission: We are two seniors who often take our 3 grandchildren to Sydney on Sundays for an outing. Their parents are unable to travel for various reasons so our outings are the only opportunity they have to see the capital city of our state. Currently it costs \$12.50 for the tickets which enables us to also travel on the ferries. We have been to art galleries, museums, Madame Tussauds waxworks, the zoo, Manly, the Rocks area and many other places- all of which we consider to be an important part of their educational experiences.

Under the new fares, the tickets will cost \$25.20- a 50% increase. As we also have other costs for the days out, paying a huge increase in fares when we are no longer working is a big consideration.

We also travel to Sydney regularly for medical appointments for which there are no services here in Wollongong. The appointment times are often around 10.00-11am which means catching a peak hour train to get there in time. The medical services entail travelling to hospitals such as St Vincents and Royal North Shore. Under the new fares this will probably mean paying the maximum daily cap which will be \$18. This will mean instead of paying \$5.00 for two tickets, we will have to pay \$36. This is an increase of \$31 or 600% increase.

We don't qualify for a pension but are certainly not wealthy. We have saved all our working lives to provide for ourselves when we retired. The new fare structure means that public transport is ceasing to be a viable option for us to use on a regular basis.