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Submission: I strongly object to the proposed change to eligibility for the Gold Opal restricting it to pensioners only. Many holders of Seniors cards are not on high incomes and provide valuable service to the community by volunteering in community and cultural organisations . Making their travel more expensive would limit their ability to do this and many organisations would not be able function without these volunteers.

A small increase to the current daily cap would be acceptable -I think in Victoria it is \$3.50- but not an annual increase as proposed. People on fixed incomes both seniors and pensioners do not have the capacity to meet the increases proposed. In many cases, they also do not have a car so will be restricted in accessing all services needed as well as the important aspect of being able to meet with family and friends.

Many also provide child minding assistance for their grandchildren which is extremely important in today's circumstances and often travel long distances to do this. Again, higher fares would restrict their ability to provide this assistance.

A modest increase in the Gold Opal cap perhaps to \$3.50 would be acceptable but not the regular increases thereafter a proposed.

