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Submission: I read recently of plans to increase Seniors Opal card travel from a cap of \$2.50 to \$9.00 a day, yet pensioners' increase is only to \$3.60

My husband and I are self-funded retirees. We are too young to get the pension, but doubt that we will qualify when we reach pension age.

We both do volunteer work several days a week, and the increase from \$5.00 a day to \$18 for the two of us would mean that this would be prohibitive. I'm sure many other volunteers, many of whom are retirees, would be in the same situation.

We also currently happily get the bus or ferry into the city or to Manly or Watsons Bay for an outing, or a cheap lunch or a movie. That would also have to stop, as it would add too much to the spending for that day. This would mean older people would no longer be putting as much money into the economy.

Lastly, the inability to afford to travel would affect both physical and mental health of Seniors. The cheap travel gets us out and about and exercising, which improves our fitness and causes less drain on the health system. Mental health is particularly affected by staying at home, as getting into the community and interacting with others is vital for those who suffer from depression or anxiety.

I hope you will take these points into account when considering an increase to Seniors trips. Maybe just increase them to the same as the Pensioners concession price? Many Seniors are not pensioners, and yet they do not have a lot of spare cash. I see no reason to now distinguish between the two, when this has never occurred in the past for travel concessions.

Thank you for considering my objections.

Kind regards

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