

Author name: Anonymous

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Submission: I am concerned that the proposal to increase the cost of the Opal Seniors card fares will have a seriously detrimental effect on seniors by making public transport less affordable. This could have a number of effects including reducing the opportunities for seniors to have social contact with friends and family, social groups, exercise classes or to attend volunteering work. Reducing opportunities for social contact can result in social isolation and possible health problems including depression.

It seems it would be more cost effective to continue with the \$2.50 per day capped fare than put money into the health services to cope with problems of social isolation caused by an increase in transport fares.

Seniors have spent a lifetime working and paying taxes and therefore economical public transport is the least the community of this wealthy state can give them in return.

It is also preferable to encourage the use of public transport for environmental reasons such as reducing pollution and traffic congestion.

For myself I feel anxious about the proposed increases in fares as I will not be able to afford to get out and about as much as I currently do.

Furthermore, the Baird Government's push to increase the GST on all items including food will further exacerbate the situation by cutting disposable income.

I urge you to leave the Opal Seniors Card pricing as it currently stands.