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Submission: The Gold card Seniors discount is essential for Seniors. Apart from anything else, it encourages people out of cars and on to public transport. Not only is this safer as drivers get older, it keeps cars off the road and helps keep seniors mobile and fit. Seniors are generally travelling out of peak times and using transport that is half-empty anyway. Wealthier seniors don't tend to use public transport anyway and are unlikely to even apply for a Gold Opal card.

This move to limit access to Gold Opal cards discriminates against self-funded retirees, who are often subsisting (like myself) on an allocated 'pension', much like the Commonwealth pension.

Catching public transport is extremely important to me - it keeps me engaged in the community, enables me to attend many events, often as a valuable volunteer contributor, and enables me to get far more exercise than I would were I to drive.

I also suffer from early macular degeneration and find that this effects my ability to drive as safely as I once did, especially at night. I cannot afford to catch taxis and I am committed to supporting the provision and use of public transport wherever possible.

My adage: 'Use it or Lose it!' There would be a significant decrease in patronage were you to discriminate against seniors in this way. I will certainly be campaigning at National Seniors level against any proposal to cut access to the Gold Opal concession card for seniors.

