

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to add my voice to that of the people responding to the proposed changes to the Opal card fare structure.

1. Whilst I do not qualify for a Gold Opal Card myself, being a NZ citizen, many of my friends do. Mostly they are self funded retirees who have worked hard to be a SFR as opposed to someone who relies on a government pension. These people are not wealthy. They are involved in volunteering, grandparent duties, social groups and a myriad of ways to be involved and useful in the community. Charging them \$9 per day instead of \$2.50 is grossly unfair and unrealistic. They would simply stay at home instead of doing all the activities that make life enjoyable in their senior years. Please reconsider this huge increase.
2. We are a homestay family who hosts students from overseas who are studying English. They already do not qualify for student concession cards and so have to pay full fare. I start them all off on an Opal card and explain the system to them. The one good thing I stress to them is that after 16 clicks (usually four days travel) they are entitled to free travel. So this gives them the incentive to use public transport more, to get out and about in Sydney and get to know our beautiful city. Please do not change this system.
3. I understand there is a loophole whereby people can click their tickets at the light rail stations close together and use all their clicks in one day thereby getting free travel for the rest of the week. Surely this would not be difficult to fix. But please do not penalise the vast majority of people who use the system as it was intended.
4. I used to see people with My Bus 1 tickets getting on the bus and getting off 30 minutes later. The Opal cards have done away with this form of dishonesty and seem to me to be a very efficient system that really needs very little changed but in particular, I ask that you do not slug the SFRs with a 260% increase in their daily fare.

Kind regards