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Submission: I am currently working 4 days per week as a 76 year old and as a result have an Adult Opal card. I do not qualify for a Seniors card, and am ineligible for the aged pension. My usage pattern means that I frequently enjoy the free travel on the Opal card after 8 journeys per week rather than the weekly cap, so I want the 8 journeys per week cap to be retained while I am still working at that level. I do expect my paid working hours to decrease over the next years and have been looking forward to eventually qualifying for the Seniors card, and a Gold Opal card, to reduce my public transport costs.

My expectation is that I will continue be actively working and commuting part-time, but I will need the flexibility and the economy of the public transport system for seniors, so that I can also attend my considerable number of health appointments, as well as attending cultural and exercise activities to enhance my senior life. I believe the proposed changes to the Opal card system for seniors are outrageous and should be completely revisited. It was one of the few benefits I was looking forward to, as I progressively reduce my working hours.

IPART should be more mindful of the seniors' needs, take account of the community support for the retention of the present Gold Opal card system and eligibility, and re-draft its recommendations to the NSW government accordingly.