

Author name: B. Watson

Date of submission: Wednesday, 3 February 2016

Submission: I would like to urge the NSW Government to keep the current Opal Gold Card concessions for all Seniors - regardless of pension/welfare status.

Keeping the current daily cap at \$2.50 will continue to allow Seniors Card Holders to use public transport to:

- Attend healthcare services whenever needed
- Shop for necessities as required - eg. essential groceries & food
- Remain active in the community
- Work as volunteers
- Visit friends and family
- Attend recreational, cultural and social events eg. church, movies, clubs and gatherings
- Spend money in the local economy eg. shopping, cafes etc.
- Use the off-peak capacity in the public transport system

Raising the cost of public transport for seniors would limit all of the above with potentially adverse health and social consequences - particularly since most self-funded retirees live on incomes similar to government pensioners and remain valuable contributors to society and the economy because of the availability and affordability of public transport. I would be also concerned that the reduction in use of the public transport system by seniors may result in a reduction in off-peak services further isolating seniors.

Please keep public transport affordable and accessible for seniors for the benefit of all of the community.

Thank you
Bradley Watson