

Author name: B. Willis

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Submission: My comment is in relation to the recommendation to remove the current access to the Seniors Gold Opal card and replace it with a \$9.00 per day concession for those not in receipt of a pension.

This recommendation is grossly unfair to the majority of self funded retirees. A \$9.00 cap would in effect be no concession for the great majority of journeys within Sydney. Under the proposed schedules

for trains off peak (when I expect most seniors travel) there would be no benefit below 15km journey and return. For those travelling just over the threshold distances, the concession is ~5%, not really a significant concession. It is noted in the report that only 5% of bus journeys are longer than 20km. Under the combined mode schedule a Senior would have to make a 45km trip and return off peak to get 6 cents concession. I would suggest that most Senior's trips are in fact made off peak.

There is no doubt that this recommendation would impact the amount of travel that seniors undertake with many social consequences, the result being for example curtailing volunteer work, not partaking in outings with the loss of associated spending to the Economy, greater use of cars with the consequences for air pollution and traffic congestion, where it would be more economical to take a car than public transport, especially if two or more people are travelling together.

The table 1.5 in the report shows that irrespective of the mode of transport, the average fare is less than \$4.50 ie half the proposed cap, this suggests that the concession will not benefit the average traveller making one return trip a day.

From my experience and other self-funded retirees, they would be lucky to make one return trip a week on public transport, so they are hardly exploiting the system.

In relation to Opal card holders other than Seniors, if the issue of an 8 journeys cap per week is an issue because some people are exploiting it by taking short journeys, this could be fixed by charging the 8 most expensive journeys in a week, not the first 8.