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Submission: The raising of the cost of Gold Opal fares is yet another grab at older Australians who have paid taxes all their working lives and are now retired and trying to make ends meet. The current \$2.50 Gold Opal Card enables older Australians to have social interaction with friends and so avoids social isolation which can lead to mental health issues. The Gold Opal Card should be available to self-funded retirees, as well as Pensioners and War Widows at the current level of \$2.50 per day.

The \$2.50 per day cap also keeps a lot of extra cars off the road, as retired people make more use of public transport.

With changes to pension eligibility in January 2017 more retired Australians will lose their Pension or Part-Pension and if the cost of the Gold Opal Card fares is raised this will create an extra burden on their retirement savings.

Increasing the cost of the Gold Opal Card cap will also increase shopping costs for many people who rely on public transport.

I reiterate, that this is another grab at older Australians to pay more. Surely there are many wealthy people in Australian who can pay higher taxes to subsidise those who have already paid their dues and need affordable public transport.