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Date of submission: Tuesday, 2 February 2016

Submission: I am very concerned about any proposal to increase the cost of using the Gold Opal card or the card for seniors who are not pensioners. This is a cruel suggestion to place further pressure on the most vulnerable members of the community. It is hard enough for older people to get from their homes to their destinations. Please do not increase the \$2.50 fare. We were promised that the introduction of the Opal Card would not cost more than the paper cards. Please keep that promise.

There are so many benefits for an older person if travel is affordable. And so many negative outcomes should the cost go up to as much as \$9.00 for seniors.

I volunteer with a not for profit organisation and need to reach their office by public transport to work there. Another friend has to take a ferry and two buses to do the same thing. We would have to stop doing this if the fares increase.

I have a number of medical appointments to keep. The cost of travel is a crucial consideration in maintaining my health.

If an increase in fares coincides with an increase in the GST as well, the older population will be the hardest hit. I urge you to consider how such decisions could possibly be justified.