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Submission: I am a senior aged 72 years living in the Sydney inner west with a Gold Opal card working 2 days per week (Monday and Thursday) near Central Station. I work less than 20 hours per week, and am not yet a pensioner. The Gold Opal card is very convenient and economical for work trips, incidental trips within the working day e.g. shopping in the CBD at lunchtime or after work, and also for seniors' activities on other weekdays, such as theatre groups at Summer Hill, theatre attendances typically at the Wharf Theatre and/or Opera House, and seniors' exercise classes at Sydney University. I have 3 points to make:

1. The 2016-2017 recommended effective weekly cap increase in my situation of \$15.00 (Concession Opal \$32.50-Gold Opal currently \$17.50 (\$2.50x7)) represents an 85% increase, which is extreme and unacceptable.

2. The 2016-2017 recommended effective weekday cap increase in my situation of \$6.50 (weekends \$2.90) (Concession Opal \$9.00-Gold Opal \$2.50)(\$5.40-\$2.50) represents a 260% increase on weekdays (116% on weekends), which is harsh, unconscionable and totally unacceptable.

3. I note that 70% of survey respondents felt the \$2.50 pensioners/seniors daily cap should be retained and the draft recommendations fly in the face of that overwhelming community view. I also note that the draft report fails to take account of the potential benefits of congestion surcharges on motor vehicle use as alternative revenue raising measures and to assist public bus traffic flow within the Sydney CBD.

In summary, IPART must reconsider its draft report and recommend that the present eligibility for the Gold Opal card (all holders of a Seniors card) be retained so that seniors' public transport costs remain economic.