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Submission: There is considerable concern among the Seniors community about the proposed increase to the Gold Opal card costs. While cost savings across Government may be needed, it is considered the the very popular Senior Gold Opal card should not be increased to 50% of the Adult fare.

The Seniors card is widely used mostly for recreation use allowing seniors to travel across Sydney in an affordable cost. If the huge increase proposed is approved, it is very likely that there will be a very large drop off in Seniors use thereby depriving the Government of revenue. As important though is the social cost that would result as seniors cut down dramatically on outings during the week.

In many developed countries, travel for seniors is free and such a big increase in fares would be out of touch with modern concerns for Seniors who have paid tax throughout there working lives.

Some seniors also work a couple of days or volunteer in areas where catching public transport is necessary. There would also be a negative impact on the volunteer community as well as older working people who are not at aged pension age or do not qualify for a pension as a consequence of part time work. The wider community needs both of these categories of public transport users to continue their work without such large cost increases. In fact, they need to be discouraged to keep up their contribution at work and to the community.

I would be very grateful it my comments could be taken into account as you draft your proposals for Senior Opal Card travel.