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Submission: The proposed increase in the Seniors Opal card from \$2.50 a day to \$9.00 a day will impact self-funded retirees who predominately use the capped fare for outings in non-peak periods. These outings also generally include expenditure on shopping, restaurants, entertainment and sightseeing.

The outings have a documented positive impact on the health (both mentally and physically) of the target group and tend to stimulate the economy by the associated expenditure in the areas that they use the capped fare to travel to.

This group is likely to not utilise a \$9.00 a day capped fare for outings but to either change outings to destinations where they can drive (as the change in cap makes driving more financially attractive) or reduce their number of outings altogether.

The likely result of introducing the increased fare cap in then

- Less use of the public transport system in off peak times by this group leading to an overall reduction in public revenue (a \$2.50 fare is better than receiving nothing)
- Increased elderly drivers on the road (something that has been actively discouraged of late)
- Less overall income for businesses in areas where the retirees have to-date travelled by public transport (including rural towns inside the boundary of the capped fare)
- Increased use of the medical system due to the reduction in outing activity by this group

I do not believe anyone wins from the proposed increase in the capped fare for Seniors.

The proposed change will most likely not increase Government and private revenue but merely tend to alienate a group who through their hard work and determination have ensured they were not a burden on society but were able to independently fund their retirement.

The \$2.50 capped fare is currently the only public benefit that this group receives and it has a far greater return to the economy than its outlay.