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Submission: I object strongly to any proposal for a 250% increase on train/bus fares for retirees like my wife and myself who are not eligible for the age-pension or a concession. The plan was hidden in fine print that such Seniors Card-holders would somehow be deprived of the Opal Gold Card discount which we now enjoy after a lifetime working and paying tax, I am told. The daily fare cap would rise from \$2.50 to \$9.00, I was told by a friend -- almost four times what we now enjoy. This is discrimination against superannuants who have planned so wisely for retirement that they are not eligible for age-pensions -- just barely.

A simple day-trip now approaches fares for people with real salaries, not allowing for the limited income of retired people.

I find it objectionable that there is no information obvious of such fare changes on either the Transport NSW or Opal websites. It was just lucky that a friend told me of a news article with the information.

I have tried unsuccessfully to get information from both the Transport NSW website and the Opal website. The search function does not reveal anything to do with "fare increases". The issue of fare increases could not have been better hidden if Transport NSW had deliberately tried. It would be no surprise if NSW Seniors knew nothing about this secret rise of 250% until too late. I hope that you will extend the deadline for comment until people are properly informed. Our State MPs have kept very quiet on the downside of the secret fare rises.

Sincerely,
Donald Page,



2 Feb 2016