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Submission: Some of the proposed changes to the Opal Card make good sense. The system needs to be tightened. However, I feel that the change to the daily cap on the fares for Seniors without a Pensioner or War Widow Card is quite unfair. While it seems reasonable to raise the cap on Gold Opal cards from \$2.50 to \$3.60 a day, the jump to \$9 per day cap for seniors who are not pensioners is not. Many people who are retired and supporting themselves without the pension simply will not be able to afford to leave their homes as often with this rise in fares, a rise for them of 360%. You must not assume every senior is wealthy. Many who have not reached the age for the pension are on a fixed, limited income and this will be just too hard for them.

For many people, public transport is the method by which they are able to socialise and take part in the wider society. Surely we want people, especially seniors, to be able to stay healthy by attending exercise classes and medical appointments, doing voluntary work and by attending functions not within walking distance of home. By reducing their ability to do this, which will happen if the daily cap increases by such a large measure, we are placing more people at risk of physical and mental health problems. Surely it is better to keep everyone out and about participating in the wider community, and finding other ways to make the system more economically viable.

I strongly believe that the daily cap for Seniors who do not hold a Pensioner or War Widow Card be kept closer to the \$3.60 which will be allowed for the Gold Opal Card holders.