

Author name: E. Ashmore

Date of submission: Friday, 5 February 2016

Submission: I am extremely alarmed by the IPART proposals affecting access to the Gold Opal card. Throughout the year I travel everywhere on public transport. I do not own a car.

Whilst I am on a Superannuation pension this is not sufficient to sustain a increased weekly cost of approximately \$45 per week or nearly two and a half thousand dollars annually.

I work as a volunteer one day a week at the Museum of Contemporary Art and have done for 15 years. I also volunteer for APHEDA-Union Aid Abroad on a less regular basis but for some of their fund-raising activities I am in there three or four times a week for several weeks. I would be forced to reconsider these activities if it becomes too great an expense for me. This would be both disadvantageous to the organisations and to me. My volunteer activities are an important part of my on-going therapy for a serious mood disorder which forced me to retire ten years early.

I also participate in further education at WEA and the Conservatorium of Sydney. Restrictions placed on my ability to travel on public transport would also impact very unfavourably on these activities.

Given Federal and State Government concerns about keeping our raging population well and not costing money through the health system it seems to me that a move such as this is extremely negative in its cost effectiveness. Have these kinds of effects been thoroughly investigated and their economic impacts been calculated or even estimated?

Public transport should not be a cash cow. Many overseas cities are able to run such systems at minimal up-front costs to their inhabitants. Why can't NSW at least partially subsidise transport for the elderly as currently happens? Pure economic rationalism perhaps!?

Perhaps the Premier should also be considering the electoral power of the elderly. This is an issue which could well affect the outcome of the next election.

Very sincerely

Edd Ashmore