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Submission: IPART has recommended that Seniors who are not Pensioners should not be entitled to an OPAL Gold card, which would increase the daily cap on fares for Seniors from \$2.50 to \$9.00. I think that this proposed increase in fares is excessive and unfair, and will have a significant effect on the lifestyle of Seniors.

The fare structure was reviewed as part of the OPAL card system, and just as OPAL is finally implemented a new method of calculating fares is to be introduced. Under the proposal all Seniors would have to be issued with a new OPAL card to replace the OPAL Gold card for which they would no longer be eligible.

The Federal Government is making it more difficult for people who have saved and contributed to superannuation to receive a pension, and now we have a proposal that the State government should increase the living costs of Seniors. It should be remembered that many people who are denied the pension because of the Assets Test do not have a high disposable income.

Seniors travel to assist their families, do voluntary work, meet with friends as well as attend medical appointments and do shopping. The proposed \$9.00 daily limit will discourage this travel or encourage the use of a car. Businesses such as cafes and shops will lose some daytime traffic if more Seniors stay at home because of high rail fares.