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Submission: I am a self funded retiree aged 66. I currently hold a gold opal card. I make three points.

health - As a person matures the ability to leave the home and travel the public transport system is not only a privilege but also a means of experiencing life more fully both on your own or with family and children or grandchildren. This healthier experience is a sensible investment by the government to minimise potential health issues for the elderly and placing less strain on the health system, encouraging the economy by getting older people to places where they can spend their money and stimulate the economy.

Safety - As talk emerges about vehicle driving skills of the more mature what sense does it make to create disincentives for using public transport. Surely a jump from \$2.50 or even \$3.60 to \$9 will result in more senior vehicle drivers on the road.

Mean spirited - A civilised society is measured by its treatment of the vulnerable such as the old and the very young. I am financially secure due to hard work and industry and making a significant contribution to society by paying taxes and employing staff. In general I agree with means testing so that the less well off get the benefit of government support. The trains still run whether I catch them or not so how much difference does my presence make to the system yet what a pleasure to get this small benefit from the government. Does everything a government do have to be economic considerations only?