

The IPART proposal that the Seniors Gold Opal Card would only be available for those who hold a pensioner or NSW war widow/ers card is highly discriminatory and would place a substantial impost on self funded retirees who survive on their limited and rapidly depreciating retirement funds. It would also force many retirees to curtail their preferred use of public transport and revert (where they have access to a vehicle) back onto our overcrowded roads again.

The IPART proposal to set the daily cap at 40% of the concession weekday cap is outrageous enough and represents a **44% price hike over the existing rate (\$3.60 versus \$2.50)** for 2016-17. As the annual Consumer Price Index is around 3 to 4%, **a 44% price hike** is absurd and will surely signal the demise of any State Government that tries to introduce it?

The second IPART proposal, that Seniors card holders who do not also hold a pensioner or NSW war widow/ers card should only be eligible for a Concession Opal card, where their daily maximum fare would increase to \$9 per day (from the current \$2.50) is clearly political suicide for any State Government attempting to introduce it. **How can any sane government inflict a seniors price hike of almost 260% on seniors public transport expenses** while at the same time encouraging the use of public transport and getting motorists (especially the so called "unsafe" seniors) off our overcrowded roads?

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