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Submission: Thank you for taking the time to peruse my submission. The draft report from the ipart said "concession pricing usually serves social policy objectives and is matter for govt and so falls outside of iparts fare review". That is where iparts involvement should have ceased. Fares like the opal card concessions provide a much wider community benefit which does not need to transcend into a bureaucratic need to raise fares "because the level of fare increase generally since 2005 has far outstripped the concession fares". The peace on mind for older Australians being able to travel to see family and friends, maintaining social contact has significantly positive outcomes upon which a price cannot be determined. There are many other areas of revenue shortfall that could be investigated before these recommendations are considered. Though the increases seem small, in concert with all of the other cost of living pressures faced by Australians, particularly those on pensions, these increases, if approved will impact on those who can afford it least. As a parting comment, it should not be assumed that all self funded retirees are "comfortable" To the contrary, many are just "hanging in there" not wanting to be a burden on govt but needing those little benefits which make a difference.

Once again thank you for considering this submission.