

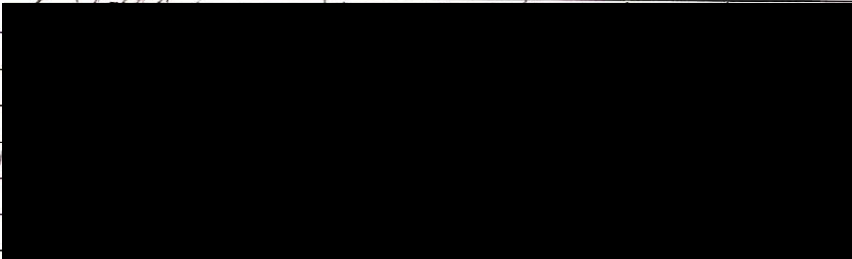
IPART Media Release Monday 20 December 2015:  
PROPOSED PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES

We the undersigned **CANNOT** support the proposed changes to senior concession fares and eligibility for obtaining a Gold OPAL card. Many of the Gold OPAL card holders are 'self funded' retirees who receive very little in the way of government grants, subsidies, pensions or benefits.

The current eligibility and fare structure of daily \$2.50 cap allows many many self funded retirees to remain physically, mentally and emotionally fit and well thus reducing the demand that these citizens place on the medical and welfare systems provided by both State and Federal Governments. Not only do the opportunities provided by the daily \$2.50 cap maintain the well being of seniors, especially those who are widows/widowers and others living in single person households, it allows seniors to remain independent by providing affordable and easy access to social events, medical and other appointments, meeting friends, shopping, attending cultural activities and the like.

In addition, self funded retirees make up a vast portion of the volunteering force engaged across the State in hundreds of activities supporting government and non-government departments, hospitals, libraries, schools, galleries, environmental charity and welfare organisations. Any increase in the daily cap would very much reduce the number of voluntary hours that self funded retirees would be able to offer due to the increased costs of travel.

A fare raise from \$2.50 per day to \$9.00 per day is almost a 200% increase-this is LUDICRUS. There should be NO move to introduce a two-tier system for Gold OPAL card eligibility as it is discriminatory to penalise former tax payers who for various reasons due to their own previous budgetary efforts to cater independently for their retirement needs do NOT qualify for a Centreline benefit.

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