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Submission: I am very concerned that:

The Gold Opal Card would only be available for those who hold a pensioner or NSW war widow/ers card and that the daily cap should be set at 40% of the concession weekday cap (\$3.60 for 2016-17, \$3.80 for 2017-18 and \$4.00 for 2018-19).

The Gold Opal card should be kept at the current \$2.50, and not raised to an amount that would be unaffordable to those on very low incomes.

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, in which case the daily maximum fare would increase to \$9 per day, from the current \$2.50.

The maximum fare for Senior card holders should remain at \$2.50 as many self-funded retirees live on incomes similar to the aged pension.

This review is an attack on the living standards of senior citizens who have worked hard all their lives, who have built the Australia that we all enjoy, and deserve to travel on public transport without causing financial stress. Public transport is a right not a privilege.

I believe these changes could have a negative effect on the daily and weekly activities of senior citizens, whatever their pension status, including family and community responsibilities. The cost increase proposed to the Gold Opal Card may put public transport out of reach of some seniors as it is not reflected in the incremental increases in the aged pension and war widow/ers pension. I am also aware that many self-funded retirees may not qualify for the pension despite living on modest incomes not too dissimilar to the amount to the pension.

I ask that the proposed changes be abandoned. The changes are inequitable and will disadvantage some of the most vulnerable people in our society.