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Submission: I am opposed to the proposed changes to the pricing structure for the Seniors Opal Card. 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.

These changes would have a detrimental effect on individuals, families and communities. The changes may prohibit older people from fully participating in their communities and families and therefore prevent them from making the very important social and economic contributions to the society that we know our aged population make. The financial consequences for elderly people, may impact on their ability to access health and other services in the community (as they may not be able to or choose to spend money on public transport) and may lead to social isolation which can result in mental health issues.

Most elderly people have worked hard all of their life and paid their taxes throughout this working life. They deserve to be able to access and participate in their local communities as they wish in their retirement and ensuring that public transport is financially accessible is an important part of facilitating this social participation.

I am totally against any proposed changes Opal card pricing structures for seniors.