

Author name: N. Marcar

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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam

I write to express my dismay at the following part of IPART's proposals: 'Seniors without a Pensioner or War Widow/ers Card would have an Opal Concession Card (\$9 daily cap) rather than a Gold Opal Card'.

I understand that there might be a need to increase the daily cap of \$2.50 currently applying to the Gold opal card. However, the proposal to go to \$3.90 is too high given the low rate of inflation since 2005.

What I find very objectionable is the suggestion to remove these entitlements for seniors who are not pensioners. They would be slugged an extra \$6.50! Such a move could significantly reduce those using public transport (especially longer distant train travel, which tends to be slow anyway) and potentially clog our roads with more cars, increase environmental disbenefits, affect the way older people interact within their communities and would be completely out of step with all other states and territories. This is a radical policy move not just a change to fares for older Australians!

I urge the IPART committee to remove this part of the proposed changes as a matter of urgency. Those above 60 have paid taxes all their lives and have been encouraged to be self supporting through accruing sufficient super - they deserve better treatment. It is not as simple as comparing Newstart travel concessions with those proposed for non-pensioner seniors. The Government knows too well that there will be fewer pensioners out there in the future.

I look forward to acknowledgement of and response to my submission in due course.

Regards

Nico Marcar