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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam,

re the highly damaging IPART proposal to increase Seniors Opal Fares by 360% for Seniors who are self-funded in retirement.

1. I have separately written on this to the Premier expressing dismay at the ridiculous price rise proposed for 'non-pensioner' seniors. In this time of tiny interest rates genuinely 'self-funded' senior retirees already are being hit very hard financially and do not need this type of selective and harsh price increase.
2. The proposal to increase non-pensioner Seniors daily fares from \$2.50 to \$9.00 is a 360% increase - yes 360%. This increase, in any economic circumstances, must be thought both offensive and absurd.
3. The fact that the current \$2.50 daily maximum figure has not increased in more than 10 years really is just silly. However, this fact in no way justifies a policy change that negatively hits a select group with a 360% price change. The policy change and 360% pricing hit is obviously intended deliberately to hurt people who have lived frugally and cautiously saved as they worked and aged and who now impose no demands on the public purse!
4. A reasonable change in price from \$2.50 to about \$3.30 to \$3.50 (say \$3.40, based on CPI at about 3% over approximately the past 10 years) is acceptable - indeed it is desirable based on common sense. BUT NO MORE! Certainly NOT 360%.
5. The proposed 360% increase is totally unacceptable both in terms of quantum and policy revision. IPART's proposed policy change so that non-pensioner seniors be treated differentially from other seniors is both galling to the large number of individuals affected and counterproductive to the community.
6. The proposal will be met by a very hostile response by the many 'self-funded in retirement' seniors for whom this daily pricing cap (currently \$2.50 and reasonably increased to say \$3.40) is a welcome, albeit minor and seldom used, benefit after careful lifetime savings so that there is not any reliance on publicly funded pensions.
7. Like many, at \$18.00 per day (under the proposed IPART increase) for both my wife and me we will simply drive our car and not EVER bother with public transport both for our own convenience and as deliberate and hostile response to this 360% increase.
8. Therefore the proposed ridiculous pricing increase will be counterproductive in terms of revenue, environment and, of course, political backlash.
9. From discussions with others in my position it is apparent that the public response to such a 360% selective increase will be very strong. Inevitably it will have very strong anti-Liberal Party electoral implications.
10. I am happy to appear before any Committee considering this matter.

Patrick Gallagher