

Submitted by Phyllis Gorman  
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**Attention:**

**Dr Peter J Boxall AO, Chairman**

**Ms Catherine Jones**

**Mr Ed Willett**

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to the Gold Opal Card for the following reasons:

1. The first and very important reason is the failing of the Opal Card system on buses to make sure that all passengers pay for their trip. Because I take the bus at least five times a week, I am aware the on **EVERY SINGLE TRIP AT LEAST ONE PASSENGER WILL GET AWAY WITHOUT SWIPING THEIR CARD.**
2. Usually it is more than one. I see people group together with someone who is swiping and just walking past the swipe machine, unnoticed by the bus driver who is trying to concentrate on driving the bus and cannot even see this action if the card reader is located beyond the bus drivers vision.
3. Why should I have to pay this outrageous suggest increase when the buses are losing what I imagine to be a huge amount of revenue?

The proposed increased cost for the Gold Opal Card would impose severe financial problems for me.

4. I am 79 years old, and because I am a dual citizen, US and Australia, I am not eligible for the Australian Age Pension.
5. I am a self funded pensioner with an income of approximately \$40,000 per year and I am a renter paying close to 40% of my income in rent. In addition, I had over \$7000 in unreimbursed medical expenses in 2015. I take public transport exclusively as I cannot afford to own or run a car.
6. On orders of my cardiologist, I attend the Uniting Centre for Healthy Ageing gym which is located 5 bus stops from my home. I attend the gym three times a week, which I can afford in the transportation cost for Gold Opal of \$2.50 cap per day. So currently, I pay \$2 per day to attend the gym
7. If the proposed changes go through I will be paying approximately \$7.00 per day just to attend the gym. On a monthly basis travelling to the gym will cost \$84 a month as compared to \$24 now. I cannot afford this increased cost.

I am not opposed to an increase in the Gold Opal day cap of \$2.50 to \$3.50.

I am opposed to the tribunal going after the people who cannot afford the changes versus the people who get away constantly without paying.