

Author name: P. Lowing

Date of submission: Thursday, 4 February 2016

Submission: I object to the increase in charges on the Seniors' Gold Opal Card to \$9 per day, for everyone except pensioners, on the following grounds :

many self- funded retirees are on very limited incomes, & this increase will limit their activities drastically;

Seniors need to be able to engage in social & learning opportunities outside the home for their health & well-being, The pressure on the health & hospital services in NSW is already onerous, & the increased cost of public transport will result in greater mental & health problems for Seniors;

Seniors add considerably to the economic viability of many small businesses & public institutions e.g. cafes, Art Galleries, the Opera House & other theatres, museums etc. & limiting Seniors' participation in public life is self-defeating for the NSW economy. Cheaper public transport is integral to Seniors' lifestyle, particularly as older people often prefer not, or are unable, to drive;

Volunteer services will decline, as Seniors will not be able to afford the increased fines.