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Submission: The Draft IPART Report recommends that “Seniors card holders who do not also hold a pensioner or NSW war widowers card should be eligible for a Concession Opal card.” This is a euphemism for “... Seniors Card Holders will no longer be eligible for a Gold Opal Card”. Daily caps for Concession Opal Cards are proposed to be \$9 weekdays and \$5.40 on weekends and subject to escalation. This has not been stated clearly enough as many Seniors Card Holders, I believe, do not understand the recommendation.

This means that the daily cap for a current Gold Opal Seniors Card Holder will rise from \$2.50 to \$9, almost a 400% increase.

Clearly, there are many, many hundreds of thousands of self-funded retirees who do not qualify for a pension but who are living on a limited fixed income or a finite pool of savings. For these people, the Gold Opal Card is almost the only Government benefit they get in retirement. In the era of extremely low deposit interest rates and falling superannuation returns the discretionary spending ability of the elderly is declining.

This draft proposal is mean-spirited and will significantly impact the freedom, economic and lifestyle benefits that the elderly currently enjoy in utilising public transport to access society.

This will be an extremely unpopular move for any Government that attempts it.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Hayes