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Submission: My wife and I are self-funded retirees and often use a PET/Gold Opal card for leisure travel. I believe that the daily cap of \$2.50 should remain for ALL holders of the Seniors Card. My reasons for this are:

- The current low fare encourages older people to use public transport. The main advantage of this is it encourages them to get out of their homes and assists in keeping them active and therefore healthier, resulting in a reduced call on health services and their associated costs.
- My wife and I use public transport to visit friends and relatives and occasional trips to local shops. If our combined costs increased to almost \$20 per day (for a single outing) then we would use our own car more often.
- In the majority of cases, retired Seniors Card holders use public transport outside of the commuting hours when public transport is under utilised. Any fare collected is therefore a bonus to the operating company. Increasing fares may discourage older people from using public transport, either encouraging them to use their own vehicles or reducing the frequency of travelling.
- Other cities in Australia, such as Perth, provide FREE travel for seniors. In the UK all local bus travel is FREE to seniors. Surely the New South Wales government can maintain the current \$2.50 travel cap for all of its seniors.

Robert Simmons