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Submission: I do not support the proposal to limit the seniors' access to Gold Opal card at the same rate as pensioners. There are many self funded retirees whose income is fixed or even decreased according to variable interest rates and insecure superannuation! Seniors on these fixed incomes would be really disadvantaged.

Also the concept of the Seniors card for travel at \$2.50 was to enable older people to travel at an affordable fee and to go out to socialise and to shop. This encourages economic activity. Also this keeps older people connected to social networks and improves their emotional, psychological and physical health.

Raising the travel fee so that seniors are discouraged from travelling is counterproductive as there will be an increase in people being unhappy and isolated - will lead to higher health care costs. Society could see an increase in psychological problems such as depression. This will cost the Government more in finances. Public transport has to run in any case, so why not encourage seniors to travel and to socialise. Seniors need to use public transport as many seniors are no longer able to drive.

Seniors going out and spending in shops, cafes and restaurants and travelling about the countryside, usually in off peak hours,, increases economic activity, stimulating local economies. I suggest looking at the broader issue of encouraging economic activity and the health of seniors through the seniors pensioner concession for all seniors as is the situation now. Trying to gouge money out of this section of seniors is unfair and counterproductive.

Self funded retirees have worked hard to be able to support themselves in their senior years and should be given respect and the advantage of having the seniors travel concession at pensioner rates. They should not be disadvantaged because they have saved enough money so that they don't need to be supported by the government through a centrelink pension.

Lodged by Shirley Cameron