

I strongly oppose IPart's recommendation of the price hike for pensioner fares on the Gold Opal Card used by senior people on public transport in NSW, for the following reasons.

- Raising the daily cap on the Gold Opal Card for senior citizens would bring financial hardship to many seniors, this proposal is an unjust and inequitable move.
- PART's proposal to means-test the eligibility for the Gold Opal cards, would make them unaffordable for many self-funded retirees who live on low fixed incomes, but do not hold concession cards.
- A large majority of NSW seniors rely on public transport to do their weekly shopping attend appointments and social activities.
- This proposed price hike would mean cutting back on vital medical and basic necessities, social activities, and stretching finances just to make ends meet.
- Access to public transport and reasonable fares for seniors who live alone enables them to get out and about, maintain links with society, so they are not isolated, which is vital for good health and wellbeing.
- The progressive hikes in the daily cap for seniors would make public transport costs prohibitive.

I urge you to scrap this proposal and recommend that the NSW government raise taxes on the rich citizens of NSW to meet public service operational needs.

Yours Sincerely

Sandra Langtree

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