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Date of submission: Friday, 12 February 2016

Submission: I wish to object to any increase in price for the Gold Opal Card to be introduced in July 2016. I even more strongly object to the proposed change that Seniors without a Pensioner or War Widow/ers Card would have an Opal Concession Card (\$9 daily cap) rather than a Gold Opal Card.

As a former PAYE who is now retired I have received no concessions during my working life of 40 years. I have contributed to society by paying taxes and adding to the State's general revenue. Self-funded retirees should not be penalized because they have saved throughout their life and once they reach 60 be deprived of an existing scheme.

The Gold Opal Card is now one of the few concessions available to self-funded retirees. It allows and encourages seniors to participate more in society, it gets them out of their homes decreases the likely of them driving and increases their physical activity. This is good for them and society as a whole by reducing health costs such as depression, obesity and cardiovascular problems.

Encouraging people to get out and use public transport stimulates the economy. My friends and I take public transport and explore the city and outer suburbs. We often travel to new areas and every time we spend money on for example, lunches, drinks and purchases in the local area. We would not do this if there is a hike in the fares. It is more likely that we would not travel as often, we would only travel to known places and would travel in one car.

It would be a short sighted public health policy to increase fares for the over 60 year olds when they should be encouraging people to participate in society. This would be a very bad move.

I strongly object to restrictions of the Gold Opal Card for self funded retirees who have contributed all their lives and it is one of the few benefits of getting older.

Valerie Hanson