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150 elderly residents live in this Retirement Village and actually, or potentially, use public transport, own a pensioner's card and routinely take advantage of the concessionary Opal card. The proposed increase from \$2.50 to \$9.00 would gravely impact on many, if not all, of these residents.

The median age of the residents in this Village is 87/88 and the majority are beyond driving. The Village setting is semi-rural, local taxis are unreliable and can be expensive. As a result, public transport and the concessionary Opal card are the preferred option for the less financially-secure resident to shop for essentials, attend medical and legal appointments and maintain morale-boosting socialise contact.

In the main, wealthier people don't take advantage of the Opal card, so the proposed price-hike will cause undue hardship to the less-well off if introduced in one fell swoop. Any increase should be phased in at just above the rate of inflation to prevent people living on modest incomes being put at a serious disadvantage.

Such a huge price hike is a knee-jerk reaction, indicative of the fact that timeous reviews were not undertaken to monitor the true cost of the subsidy award to this concessionary scheme.

We, as a group of 150 pensioners believe the proposed increase in the daily cost of an Opal card should be dramatically reduced to prevent it being divisive .