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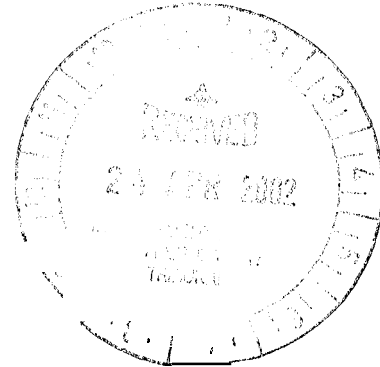


In reply please quote:

BH:HA

April 23, 2002

Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
Review into Taxis, Private Buses & Private Ferries
P O Box Q290
QVB Post Office
NSW 1230



SUBMISSION: PRIVATE TRANSPORT FARES

The Retired Associates of the Public Service Association of New South Wales represents thousands of retired public servants spread across NSW. Some members, particularly country members and those living in the outer suburbs of Sydney, are almost dependent upon the privately run transport system.

This submission focuses on the social impact of any increase in fares on senior citizens in our society.

The Retired Associates strongly advocates that the \$1.10 senior citizens' system in the Sydney Metropolitan System, and a similar system in the Illawarra region be extended to the privately run transport system of buses and ferries. The Government would need to subsidise to avoid loss of income by private operators.

POINTS OF REVIEW

1. The present fare structure discriminates against aged pensioners and, even more so, against senior's cardholders on the basis of where they live. Any increase in fares will cause a rise in their cost of living and a lowering of their standard of living. Many have limited resources and could face considerable hardship.
2. Socially active older people are known to be healthier. With affordable fares older citizens are able to take part in a range of activities and maintain an interest in their society. On the other hand, with expensive fares they will remain confined to their homes where they become inactive and suffer more health problems.
3. In addition, older people carry out a lot of unpaid voluntary work in the community. With higher fares many people would be unable to continue this work, much of which could cease.
4. Keeping fares low encourages older people to use privately run public transport instead of cars. Fewer cars on the roads reduce pollution and could reduce the number of traffic accidents.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of the Retired Associates of the Public Service Association of NSW.

Yours faithfully,



WILLIAM (BILL) HALL
CHAIRMAN - RETIRED ASSOCIATES BRANCH