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In reply please quote:

BH:HA

24 April 2003

The Programme Manager  
Transport Independent Pricing  
& Regulatory Tribunal  
P O Box Q290  
QVB Post Office  
NSW 1230

Dear Sir,

### SUBMISSION – TRANSPORT FARE REVIEWS 2003/2004

The Retired Associates of the Public Service Association of NSW, comprising of self funded retirees, aged pensioners and superannuants represents thousands of public servants spread across NSW.

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

#### Public Transport Review

Increases in the fare structures or travelling time restrictions on public transport would seriously impact on the quality of life of Senior Card holders. It cannot be overstated that any changes to fares and travelling time schedules will have an on-going political impact. Most public transport seats are generally utilised by Senior Card holders outside peak hours. In fact, they are improving the efficiency of the public transport system and contributing to the takings of these public instrumentalities.

Most Senior Card holders avoid the peak hour times for reasons of age, frailty and general crowding. Those who are forced to travel in peak hours generally are involved in providing volunteer services,

relative and friend, health support and personal medical appointments. It is vital that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal look at the total picture *i.e.* health, transport and general Senior Card holders' needs and not the bottom line of fares alone.

Senior Card holders spend increased amounts of money in travel, entertainment and other consumer outlets thus helping to support their health, as well as spreading more money back into the community. This spending must result in business being more viable as well as supporting more jobs.

Under these circumstances, we submit that the fare structure for public transport should be as follows:

- **Maintain the \$1.10 fare for trains and government buses *in the Metropolitan and Hunter suburban areas.***
- **Maintain the \$2.20 fare for trains *in the outer metropolitan area.***
- **Maintain the \$3.30 fare for trains in the greater city rail *area.***

We also submit that consideration be given to the relaxation of the rule that retirees/seniors when travelling on the country link train system from distances outside the Sydney Metropolitan Area (SMA), have to change trains to the suburban train system at the outermost point of the SMA to continue their journey to Sydney city.

### **Private Transport Reviews**

The Retired Associates Country members and those living in the outer suburbs of Sydney are almost dependent upon the privately run transport system.

We submit the following for consideration:

- The present fare structure discriminates against aged pensioners and, even more so, against *'senior 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

The Retired Associates strongly advocates that the \$1.10 senior citizens' system in the Sydney Metropolitan and Hunter 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.

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