

Subject: Pensioner Excursion Tickets

IPART,

I am a driver with Baxters soon to be Westbus. One problem I have is that pensioners get on busy peak hour buses and ask for an excursion ticket which can slow the trip down and make passengers trying to connect with trains miss them. It would not be so much of a problem if it was for senior card holders only. It is unbelievable the amount of working people that have pension cards, our inspector can tell you a lot of stories regarding the way people cheat with these tickets.

At one time the Hon Barry Unsworth (working on the bus review) suggested that pensioners travel after nine that would be too hard to control.

A number of pensioners buy these to save just 30 cents, a three section fare of \$1.40 there and back. Maybe put the price of excursion tickets up to be more than twice what a three section fare would be.

I'm not the only driver with a problem regarding these tickets, over 90% of drivers agree. It has been brought up at a number of delegates meetings in which the Ministry of Transport has attended but they are from different sections not ticketing.

The difference between the private buses and the STA we have to do them manually. As suggested before senior card holders would not be so much of a problem.

Hope to hear back from someone soon regarding this issue.

Regards

Paul Stonestreet