

## **Anna Watson MP**

Parliamentary Secretary for Roads  
Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport and Roads



Ref: 01801908

**Ms Barbara O'Brien OAM**  
**CPSA Secretary**  
**Level 3**  
**17-21 Macquarie Street**  
**Parramatta, NSW 2150**

Dear Ms O'Brien,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Treasurer, which was referred to the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, about the Regional Seniors Travel Card. I am responding to you as the Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Transport and Roads.

As you may be aware, the Regional Seniors Travel Card program is currently suspended and is not accepting new applications. The program was established as a trial by the former government and was not funded beyond 2023.

Recent analysis revealed the card is not fit for purpose, and funds can be used for purchases not related to travel, including tobacco and gambling products. Transport for NSW is assessing options to limit potential future misuse.

The suspension relates to new applications only and does not affect Regional Seniors Travel Cards that have been issued. Active cards can continue to be used until the expiry date printed on the front of the card. Existing transport concessions remain unaffected.

The NSW Government offers a range of transport concessions for eligible seniors living in regional or rural areas, all capped at \$2.50. These include:

- the Senior/Pensioner fare on Opal enabled services,
- access to the Regional Excursion Daily ticket on local bus services, and
- the Country Pensioner Excursion ticket on prebooked NSW TrainLink services.

Concession fares are also available on other NSW TrainLink tickets, at half-price of the adult fare, where the Country Pensioner Excursion ticket does not apply. Pensioners can also use their Pensioner Travel Vouchers for four single or two return journeys free of charge each calendar year.

More information can be found at [transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/ticket-eligibility-concessions/seniors](https://transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/ticket-eligibility-concessions/seniors).

In regional and rural areas outside the Opal Network, privately owned and operated services may offer concessions at their own discretion.

The NSW Government also provides a range of programs to help with the cost of living. More information is available online at [www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/savings-finder).

Pensioners may also be eligible for concessions on vehicle registration in NSW.

Eligible pensioners don't have to pay:

- registration fees
- motor vehicle tax
- conditional registration fees.

To check eligibility and entitlements visit [www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/check-eligibility-pensioner-concession-vehicle-registration](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/check-eligibility-pensioner-concession-vehicle-registration).

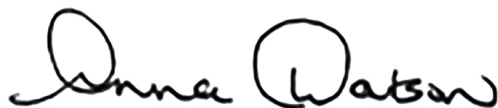
Eligible pensioners receive the following free of charge, with further information available at [www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/fees/concessions-and-discounts](http://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/fees/concessions-and-discounts):

- licences
- driving tests
- riding skills test
- Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment log book and guide
- replacement learner log books
- photo cards
- applying or renewing a NSW Mobility Parking Permit (disability parking permit).

The NSW Government also funds community transport via community transport organisations. To find a community transport provider and view eligibility requirements for community transport, please visit [www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/community-transport-operators](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/community-transport-operators).

Thank you for taking the time to write. The effort you have made to raise this matter with the Government is genuinely appreciated.

Sincerely,



13/09/2023

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