



Media release

MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

2 November 2016

Concession travel on the NSW Opal public transport network is now a whole lot easier for ACT Seniors Card holders

Concession travel on the NSW Opal public transport network is now a whole lot easier for seniors from the ACT, after limitations were removed on the travel period previously offered to travellers.

“I’m excited to announce that Transport Canberra, in partnership with Transport for NSW, has developed a new process that automatically validates ACT seniors’ eligibility for concession travel in NSW,” said Minister for Transport and City Services Meegan Fitzharris.

“Transport for NSW is removing the 60 day expiry on around 880 existing eligible ACT seniors’ Gold Opal cards. ACT seniors are now able to get a Gold Senior/Pensioner Opal card that does not expire, as long as they remain eligible.

“This is a great result for senior ACT residents who travel interstate. If you are over 60, a permanent resident of the ACT and working 20 hours or less each week you are eligible for an ACT Seniors Card. I’d also like to acknowledge the work of COTA ACT who have advocated for this improvement,” said Ms Fitzharris.

Minister for Veterans and Seniors Gordon Ramsay said, “Flexibility around transport is an essential part of being an age-friendly city and ensuring we develop transport around the way that people live. This arrangement is another demonstration of our commitment and value for older Canberrans.”

CEO of COTA ACT Jenny Mobbs welcomed the news and said, “COTA ACT has been working with Transport Canberra for close to a year to make applying for a NSW Opal Card easier for Seniors Card holders in the ACT. The new process is just one example of how COTA ACT partners with government to improve services for seniors in the ACT.

“Seniors with an early ACT Seniors Card (ie one that has six numbers, as opposed to nine in the current cards) will need to apply for a card upgrade in order to apply for an Opal card. New, replacement and upgrade ACT Seniors Cards are available from the COTA ACT office in Hughes, at ACT Libraries and Access Canberra shopfronts,” said Ms Mobbs.

Existing ACT seniors who already have a Gold Senior/Pensioner Opal card are being reminded of the benefits of registering their card:

- The balance can be protected if the card is lost, stolen or damaged;
- Customers can request a replacement Opal card, for free, and transfer the balance to the replacement card ; and
- Customers can check their travel history.

New applicants can apply for a Gold Senior/Pensioner Opal card at opal.com.au, and benefit from concession travel capped at \$2.50 a day in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Hunter, Illawarra and the Southern Highlands (excluding the Sydney Airport Station access fee).

For more information please visit transport.act.gov.au or call the Transport Canberra Information Line on 13 17 10.

Statement ends

Media contact:

Claire Johnston T (02) 6205 0022 M 0452 597 459 clairev.johnston@act.gov.au
