

A century of public transport ticketing in Canberra, ACT

Public transport in Canberra began in July 1926 with two buses operated by the Federal Capital Commission. As the city expanded so did the bus network. ACTION was formed in 1977 using transfers and interchanges. Magnetic strip cards were used in the 1990s. In 2011 My Way smartcard began. The operator became Transport Canberra in 2016. Light rail commenced in 2019 and MyWay+ in 2026. Shown here are examples of the various ticket types over the years.



1/2d

- A1. 1926 DI/CCOS, “shewn”, coloured paper, red values 1d
- A2. “shown”. 1934.
1 1/2d child, 3d, 6d
- A3. Colour band. 1952.
5d 6d 7d 8d 9d.
- A4. Dept. Home Affairs- FCT Branch, coloured paper 3d
- A5. Federal Capital Commission/OS. Coloured paper 1d child, 6d

A6. FCC/City OS. Coloured paper
3d, 6d
A7-8 Wayfarer machine small 1993, large 1995



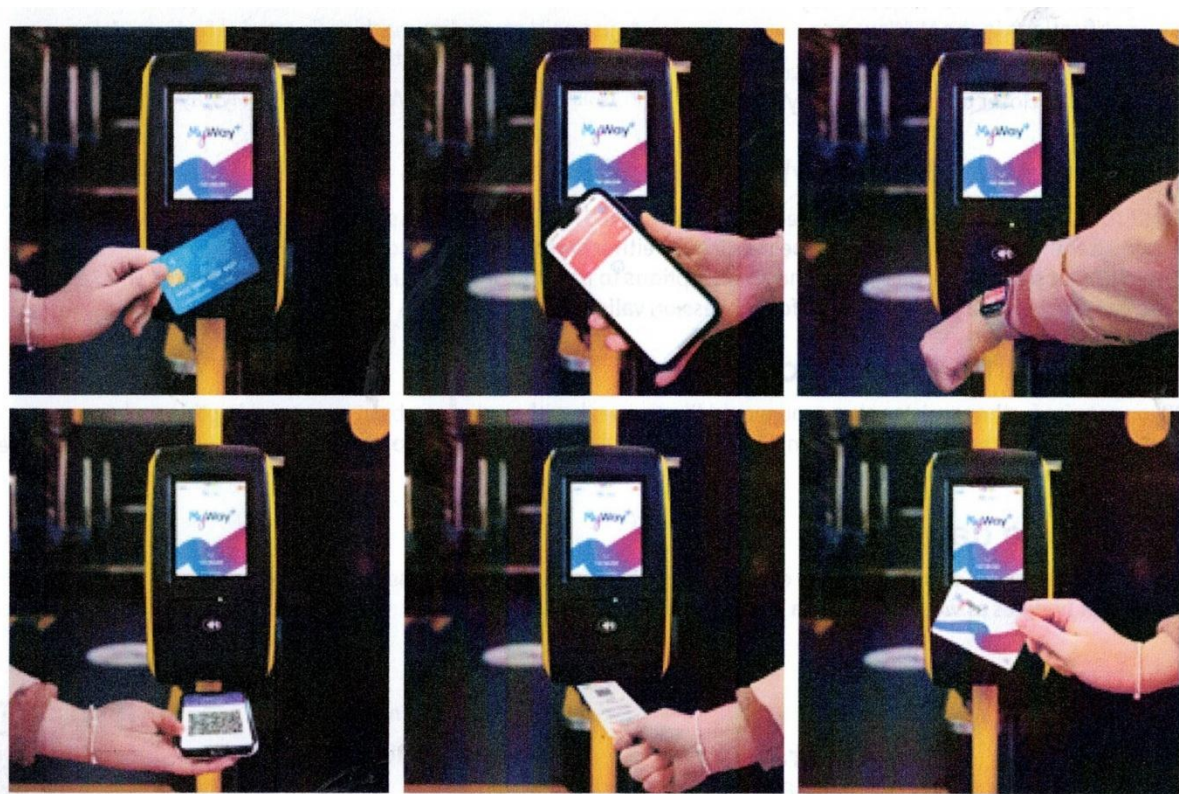
B1-2. Canberra Omnibus Service, green.card monthly, card Day Tripper
B3. Dept. of the Interior
Flimsy 15c on 5c, 20/5c, 25c/5c
B5. Action test card 1993
B6. Action swipe card.
B4. Action 3 part ticket.
B7. Action card ticket.
B8. Action booklet of flimsies.



- C1. Action laminated 1986-2005. Also C3 4 6.
 C2-3 Action special. Papal Mass=3 adult & 3 concession. Brochure. Also C7 (card).
 C4. Action thermal. Also seen Concession transfer (2005).
 C7. Action early card.



My Way 2011. Stored value card.



From a MyWay+ brochure showing card types 2026.

To place this in context. NSW was to have T-Card by the Sydney Olympics in 2000 but it failed. The Opal Card was rolled out in 2016. Melbourne replaced its Metcards with Myki in 2012. Mobile Myki (contactless payments) are now available. Queensland trialled its GoCard in 2006, launching in 2008. It was replaced by SmartCard in 2026. Adelaide replaced its Crouzet system on 1987 with Meytocard in 2012. Tasmania uses a Green Card. Perth has SmartRider while Tap and Ride is the equivalent in the Northern Territory. A Google search will give you information and pictures world wide.



Concession 2



Adult Weekly



Concession Weekly



Concession 3



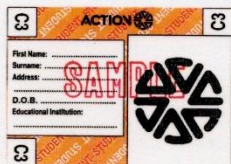
Adult Fare-Go



Adult Monthly



Concession Monthly



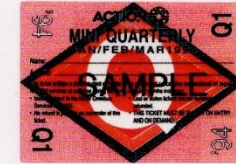
Student Concession



Concession Fare-Go



Free Pass



Concession Quarterly



Valid from Monday to Sunday in specified week. Holder over 15 years of age, must produce ACTION Concession Authority Card or adult fare will be charged.



Valid from Monday to Sunday in specified week.



DSS Pensioner concession card. Must produce to obtain concession fare or adult fare will be charged. 70c cash or concession at all times.



Job Search/New Start. Must produce to obtain concession fare or adult fare will be charged. 70c cash or concession at all times.



Valid for all days in the calendar month specified. Holder over 15 years of age, must produce ACTION Concession Authority Card or adult fare will be charged.



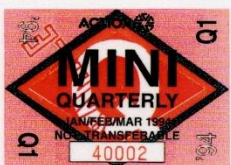
Valid for all days in the calendar month.



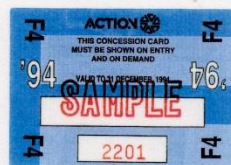
Detach when boarding.



Dependent Spouse, Sickness Beneficiary, Special Beneficiary, War or Defence Widow. Must produce to obtain concession fare or adult fare will be charged. \$1.00 cash or concession at all times.



Valid for all days in the calendar months specified. Holder over 15 years of age, must produce ACTION Concession Authority Card or adult fare will be charged.



If this card is endorsed Attendant then the holder of this card is entitled to have travel with them free. This card is not valid for the attendant travelling alone.



Detach when boarding. Holder over 15 years of age, must produce ACTION Concession Authority Card or adult fare will be charged.



School student over 15 years, full-time tertiary student. Must produce to obtain concession fare or adult fare will be charged. \$1.00 cash or concession at all times.

Front and back of driver laminated display panel showing how various types used 1994.

Types were: Mini [=concession], Mini FareGo, Mini Day Tripper, Mini Bus Week, Mini bus week, Mini quarterly., Mini sightseeing

Day Tripper

Adult monthly, Concession monthly (Mini bus card), Adult weekly Mini bus card (quarterly), Adult Fare-Go, Adult sight seeing, Day/sight seeing

Free bus pass, Employee bus pass, Unemployed

Tertiary student, Student concession authority