

Question on Notice

No. 812

Asked on 17 August 2004

MISS SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR LUCAS)

QUESTION:

Will he advise whether haemodialysis patients are eligible to apply for assistance under the Subsidised Taxi Scheme; if so, what level of expenditure has been paid out in assistance to haemodialysis patients for each year of the last three years (reported separately) and how many patients have benefited from this assistance?

ANSWER:

The Queensland government has in place the Taxi Subsidy Scheme (TSS) which is administered by Queensland Transport. The scheme aims to assist the mobility of people with severe disabilities by providing a 50% subsidy on the full cost of taxi fares.

To gain assistance under the TSS people are required to submit an application form which must also be completed by a medical professional. This information is used to assess applicants against the scheme's eligibility criteria.

All applications for assistance are forwarded to Queensland Health for assessment. The current criteria used to determine eligibility relate to severe, permanent mobility and sensory disabilities and unfortunately, haemodialysis patients are not currently covered by the scheme.

The Queensland Government currently spends about \$11m each year on the TSS and at present there are no proposals to extend the eligibility criteria.