

Question on Notice
No. 393
Asked on 28 March 2006

MRS E CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to his advice to me some months ago that he was instituting a review of the level of Patient Transfer Subsidy Scheme and as this subsidy has remained at the same level even though the cost of travel has risen markedly-

What is the current status of the review and when will the results of the review be made known to the community?

ANSWER:

Review of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is progressing. Any changes to the scheme or increases in the current level of subsidy will be considered within the broader context of medical and patient transport, statewide and area health service planning and patient access to health services across Queensland.

The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, along with the other subsidy schemes operated by Queensland Health, was recently examined in the Health Economist Review undertaken by The Allen Consulting Group and released on 29 March 2006. This analysis will inform further considerations and review of the Scheme within the Department.

Queensland Health has also endorsed an Implementation Plan "*Access to Health Services (Transport is the Key)*" to progress the management of patient access to health services. This Implementation Plan is providing a basis for reform to the patient transport service area with a particular focus on rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland.

In addition to this, Queensland Health is working collaboratively with the Queensland Ambulance Service, community transport and Queensland Transport to investigate medical and patient transport in identifying opportunities for how to best provide patient transport. The implementation of any medical transport system will include consideration of the costs to individuals when using private transport to access health services from rural, regional and remote Queensland.