

Question on Notice
No. 171
Asked on 21 February 2007

MR FOLEY asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to constituents of mine who live in the coastal villages south of Maryborough and have to travel to Hervey Bay Hospital to access renal services a distance of more than 50 klms and therefore should qualify for the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme and as they have been told that because they are not more than 50 klms from Maryborough Hospital they cannot get any subsidy even though the renal services are not available at Maryborough Hospital—

Will he correct his iniquitous situation in the interest of natural justice?

ANSWER:

Subsidies under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme apply on the basis of distance from the patient's nearest public hospital to the place of treatment.

Queensland has the lowest minimum distance threshold of any State or Territory in Australia at 50 kilometres, with Tasmania having a minimum threshold of 75 kilometres, 100 kilometres for New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia and 200 kilometres for the Northern Territory.

The distance between Maryborough Hospital and Hervey Bay Hospital is 41 kilometres.

Queensland Health has recently examined the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. This included reviewing administrative processes and the existing guidelines and the forms currently being used. A number of recommendations have been proposed and are being considered.