

Question on Notice
No. 32
Asked on 6 February 2007

MS LEE LONG asked the Minister for Health (MR ROBERTSON)-

QUESTION:

With reference to the long running review into the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme—

- (1) What progress has been made?
- (2) Will he consider subsidies on the Kuranda Range route rather than the Gillies Highway as this is the preferred road to Cairns from the Tablelands for those suffering from ill health?

ANSWER:

- (1) Queensland Health has recently finalised an examination of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme which included reviewing administrative processes, expenditure and activity, an analysis of issues raised in correspondence, previous reviews and policy papers. A number of recommendations arising out of the examination have been made and these are currently being considered.
- (2) Subsidies apply on the basis of distance not on the basis of preferred routes. The subsidy is payable from the post office nearest to the patients local public hospital to the post office nearest to the medical facility the patient will be attending. Travel should be along the shortest route available rather than preferred routes.