

Question on Notice
No. 1703
Asked on 10 November 2009

MR McARDLE asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health (MR LUCAS)-

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the average and median times it has taken to process Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme claims (that is, time from date of receipt of the claim to the payment of the monies to the claimant) for 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 year to date (reported separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for his question.

Queensland Health has set a standard that PTSS subsidy payments are settled within 30 days from the time the completed application form is submitted.

It does not assist the speedy processing of applications for staff to be diverted from their duties to collate data in a form and layout that suits an individual Member of Parliament.

It is also important to note that the clerical staff who process these forms fill the very same jobs the Queensland Opposition proposed to cut. If the LNP had won government at the last election, the staff who process PTSS applications would have been made “de-necessary”.

The PTSS provides a subsidy to patients travelling to access both public and private sector specialist medical services. As specialist medical services cannot be provided at every location in the State, Queensland Health is committed to delivering high quality, safe and sustainable health care by developing a minimum range of health services for small and remote communities, more flexible workforce options such as rural generalists and rural and isolated practice nurses and better use of technologies.

I am advised that Queensland Health has spent \$30.8 million, \$34.8 million, \$41.1 million on the PTSS for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 respective financial years representing growth of 33.5% over that period. I am further advised this is more than any other State or Territory.