

## Question on Notice

No. 1140

Asked on 6 September 2018

**MRS S WILSON** asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

### QUESTION

With reference to elderly and frail citizens in the Pumicestone Electorate accessing after-hours treatment at the Caboolture Hospital via ambulance transport—

Will the Minister advise why those on fixed income pensions are penalised by having to find their own way home, often late at night, with no alternative option but to pay the cost of taxi services from their limited financial means?

### ANSWER

Caboolture Hospital is committed to providing high quality healthcare that meets the needs of the catchment population including our elderly residents.

Patient discharge decisions are made on an individual basis to ensure patients can return home in the most appropriate way possible.

I am advised that outside of the Medically Authorised Transport Scheme, the Caboolture Hospital is not funded to provide non-clinical or domestic taxi transport. However, staff will assist patients to contact family or friends to arrange transport arrangements where required. In limited circumstances, a taxi voucher may be provided to a patient following verification that they have no alternative means of transport.