

Question on Notice

No. 1084

Asked on 20 August 2019

MR S ANDREW asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise whether the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme's travel subsidy of 30 cents per kilometre and accommodation subsidy of \$60 per night will be increased to better compensate the actual costs incurred by regional and remote people having to attend medical treatment in Brisbane and other major centres?

ANSWER

Each year, the Queensland Government spends around \$85 million for more than 85,000 Queenslanders to access assistance under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS). The allocation is increased each year based on CPI (approximately 2.5% increase year to year). The allocation for the 2019-20 financial year will be \$92.5 million.

The PTSS is a demand driven scheme. Our Hospital and Health Services work very hard to find alternatives to patient travel wherever possible, through the introduction of services closer to home or through the use of telehealth. This assists patients to receive treatment closer to home and reduces the amount of travel patients undertake, especially when they are unwell.