

Question on Notice

No. 1669

Asked on 22 October 2019

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

QUESTION

With reference to a significant number of rural and remote locations having no primary health facilities located with 50 kilometres, putting residents requiring medical treatment at significant financial disadvantage—

Will the Minister advise whether Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme travel and/or accommodation subsidies for rural and remote areas will be restored to pre-2016 terms?

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 for the 2019-20 financial year is \$92.5 million.

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 is designed to assist patients to receive treatment closer to home, and reduce the amount of travel patients undertake, especially when they are unwell.

Queensland has one of the most generous schemes in the country. Other jurisdictional schemes provide an accommodation subsidy on a per room basis to a maximum of \$60 or up to \$45 per night per person, whereas Queensland provides up to \$60 per night per person.

There have been no changes to the eligibility criteria since 2013.