

Question on Notice

No. 1269

Asked on 14 October 2021

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to families in the North West Health Region, who are often isolated from family and supports, and therefore incur a substantial cost when accessing specialist medical services requires them to travel, e.g. additional childcare or a plane ticket for young children

Will the Minister consider this shortfall in Patient Travel Subsidy for people in remote areas and cover costs for additional young children?

ANSWER

I am advised the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS), administered by the Hospital and Health Services (HHSs), supports patients required to travel more than 50 kilometres from their nearest public health facility, to access specialist medical treatment not available locally.

I am further advised the PTSS Health Service Directive and Guideline are in place to assist the HHSs to administer the PTSS. The Guidelines state a travel and accommodation subsidy is available for eligible patients and an approved escort. PTSS does not cover all costs associated with travel but does provide a subsidy of \$60 per person per night for accommodation; 30c per kilometre for private motor vehicle and provides the cost of an air, bus, ferry or rail fare.

Approval of financial assistance outside the Guideline is at the discretion of the HHS, with all applications assessed on an individual basis. I encourage impacted patients to speak to their local PTSS office to highlight their family needs. Contact details for the North West HHS PTSS offices are available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/travel/subsidies/contact-details>.