

Question on Notice

No. 1186

Asked on 10 October 2023

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS)—

Will the Minister advise how much in PTSS claims have been paid to recipients in the past five years (2019 to 2023) (a) across Queensland and (b) in the electorate of Traeger specifically?

ANSWER

In relation to part (a), I am advised the PTSS expenditure across Queensland for 2018-19 to 2022-23 is as detailed in the below table. Please note that there was a drop in expenditure from 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19 on health services, including travel restrictions and an increased reliance on telehealth services.

I note that PTSS expenditure in 2022-23 has returned to pre-pandemic levels as restrictions that led to a reduction in travel have eased.

Further to this, as part of the 2023-24 State Budget, the Queensland Government has provided an additional \$70.3 million funding over four years to increase the existing Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) concession rates.

All Hospital and Health Services	2018-2019 \$M	2019-2020 \$M	2020-2021 \$M	2021-2022 \$M	2022-2023 \$M
Total PTSS Expenditure	84,828,859	81,456,934	72,234,631	69,611,714	84,340,348

Source: DSS Data using PTSS GL codes

In relation to part (b), I am advised that PTSS data is captured at the Hospital and Health Service (HHS) level and reporting by electorate is not possible. It is noted that the electorate of Traeger is predominantly covered by the North West HHS and the Townsville HHS, with some overlap of the Cairns and Hinterland HHS remit.

I am advised that the PTSS expenditure for these three individual HHSs for 2018-19 to 2022-23 period is as detailed below:

HHS	2018-2019 \$M	2019-2020 \$M	2020-2021 \$M	2021-2022 \$M	2022-2023 \$M
Northwest	9,955,087	11,171,141	9,011,284	8,608,641	12,101,938
Townsville	6,498,721	6,049,735	5,758,612	5,401,394	5,869,926
Cairns & Hinterland	7,736,327	6,701,705	6,529,673	5,879,667	7,932,491
Total PTSS Expenditure	24,190,135	23,922,581	21,299,569	19,889,702	25,904,355

Source: DSS Data using PTSS GL codes