

Question on Notice

No. 638

Asked on 23 May 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to answer to Question on Notice No. 39 of 2023—

Will the Minister advise (a) what data has been collated and what stakeholder engagement has taken place to date and (b) what is the expected time frame that this process will be complete?

ANSWER

The Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) provides financial assistance to Queenslanders to assist with transport and accommodation costs when accessing essential specialist health services that are not available locally (within 50 kilometres of the patient's closest public hospital or public health facility).

The PTSS assists with travel and accommodation expenses only. It is not intended to cover all costs associated with accessing specialist health services.

Data related to access, patient movements and expenditure is collected and analysed to ensure PTSS is structured in a way that best supports access to specialist services for patients and to help inform service delivery and improvements to the PTSS.

Queensland Health engages and receives feedback on PTSS with the Local Community Advisory Networks, and through discussions with non-government organisations such as Cancer Council, Leukaemia Foundation and the Australian Red Cross.

Feedback on the additional costs that Queenslanders living in rural and remote locations incur to access specialist health services has been heard.

As part of the 2023-24 State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government has provided an additional \$70.261 million funding over four years to increase existing PTSS concession rates.

Commencing in 2023-24, accommodation rates for eligible PTSS patients will increase from \$60 per person, per night to \$70 per person, per night and mileage concession rates will increase from 30 cents to 34 cents per kilometre.

Also commencing from 2023-24 is funding to support full cost of repatriation of deceased patients under the PTSS scheme to their place of residence.