

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 928**

**Asked on 23 August 2023**

**MR M CRANDON** 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—

Will the Minister provide (reported separately by financial year and Hospital and Health Service) from 2015-16 to 2022-23 (a) the total number of accommodated nights subsidised by the 'Accommodation Subsidy', (b) the total dollar value spent on (i) the 'Accommodation Subsidy', (ii) the private motor vehicle component of the 'Travel Subsidy' and (iii) the commercial component of the 'Travel Subsidy'?

### **ANSWER**

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

On 1 July 2023, accommodation rates for eligible PTSS patients increased from \$60 per person per night, to \$70 per person per night, and mileage concession rates increased from 30 cents to 34 cents per kilometre.

Also on 1 July 2023, the Queensland Government provided funding for the full cost of repatriation of deceased eligible PTSS patients on PTSS-related travel to their Queensland place of residence or their Queensland Traditional Homelands or their Queensland First Nations Country.

The increase of concession rates, and the introduction of funding to support the repatriation of deceased patients, to their Queensland place of residence or their Queensland Traditional Homelands or their Queensland First Nations Country, has resulted in considerable growth to the PTSS budget, with \$113.8 million allocated to PTSS for 2023-24.

I note this question relates to accommodation expenditure and travel expenditure by Hospital and Health Service (HHS) for the 2015-16 to 2022-23 period. I am advised that detailed expenditure data is only available from 2019-20, when the HHSs transitioned to new Information Communication Technology travel management systems (being 'PTIMS' and 'OPTML'). I refer the Member to Table 1 below. To source details prior to 2019-20 would require going to each HHS which I am advised would be an unreasonable diversion of Queensland Health resources.

However, I am advised that the total PTSS expenditure to support Queensland patients to travel for their treatment from 2015-16 to 2022-23 is \$636.6 million.

Table 1 – PTSS HHS expenditure including Accommodation, Private Motor Vehicle and Commercial Travel 2019-20 to 2022-23

HHS	Subsidy Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Cairns &amp; Hinterland</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	2,678,264	2,599,465	2,318,905	2,499,482
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	1,967,886	2,023,423	1,751,768	2,177,238
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	2,055,555	1,906,785	1,808,994	3,255,771
<b>Central Queensland</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	3,069,639	3,194,890	2,822,232	3,027,276
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	2,565,158	2,466,903	2,295,479	2,494,485
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	6,010,004	4,123,549	4,679,698	6,807,361
<b>Central West</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	612,725	576,203	507,642	442,244
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	606,899	581,439	605,237	598,477
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	843,305	840,929	743,984	658,950
<b>Children's Health</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	10,835	6,645	28,786	0
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	0	370	779	0
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	0	0	0	0
<b>Darling Downs</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	2,740,425	2,517,247	2,439,427	2,541,785
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	4,685,685	3,846,603	3,145,524	4,190,000
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	131,284	48,922	34,406	46,067
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	512,747	563,913	526,720	512,802
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	101,377	118,356	95,699	126,030
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	28,874	2,821	12,769	19,559
<b>Mackay</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	3,092,490	2,751,356	2,571,126	2,413,659
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	2,830,229	2,466,648	2,283,170	2,366,704
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	2,054,110	1,655,471	1,882,304	2,756,298
<b>Metro North</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	224,376	265,504	203,421	211,838
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	151,068	52,465	61,265	60,956
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	116,471	11,119	7,136	16,329
<b>Metro South</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	200,728	124,281	81,605	96,625
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	71,973	56,318	55,933	59,530
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	30,289	4,791	4,877	31,217
<b>North West</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	3,710,648	3,300,984	2,553,892	3,384,604
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	601,006	653,284	487,232	571,461
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	6,859,487	5,057,016	5,567,517	8,145,873
<b>South West</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	853,241	1,037,101	1,009,862	915,169
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	1,460,432	1,375,613	1,405,078	1,504,002
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	264,603	287,122	365,240	387,543
<b>Sunshine Coast</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	936,395	971,471	1,429,080	1,295,236
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	943,898	889,896	788,799	1,048,397
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	11,365	8,798	11,966	20,177
<b>Torres &amp; Cape</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	5,599,450	6,840,169	5,597,807	6,388,514
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	268,852	267,313	256,865	267,419
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	7,614,614	6,487,904	7,437,778	10,143,898
<b>Townsville</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	1,614,242	1,647,754	1,551,250	1,493,659
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	2,405,066	2,223,412	2,165,764	2,221,756
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	2,030,427	1,887,446	1,684,379	2,154,512
<b>West Moreton</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	336,612	281,532	211,572	242,305
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	169,981	179,197	173,297	216,297
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	9,382	551	756	5,705
<b>Wide Bay</b>	Accommodation Subsidy	3,163,079	2,563,106	2,680,079	2,639,328
	Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy	4,056,854	2,747,291	2,566,408	2,760,936
	Commercial Travel Subsidy	1,154,903	721,255	698,207	1,022,873
<b>ALL HHSs TOTAL</b>		<b>81,456,933</b>	<b>72,234,631</b>	<b>69,611,714</b>	<b>84,240,347</b>

Source: DSS Data using PTSS GL codes

The Accommodation Subsidy data includes expenditure for patient and escort accommodation, private and commercial.

The Private Motor Vehicle Subsidy data includes expenditure for mileage for patients and escorts.

The Commercial Travel Subsidy data includes expenditure for patient and escort air fares, bus fares and rail fares.

In relation to the request for information for the number of accommodated nights subsidised by each HHS, I am advised this information is not readily available and is not reported to the Department by each HHS. Consequently, I am advised that to source this information for the Member would be an unreasonable diversion of Queensland Health resources.