

Question on Notice

No. 1255

Asked on 12 December 2024

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the Patient Transport Subsidy Scheme (PTSS), despite the 2023 increase of \$10 per person per night for accommodation and 4 cents per kilometre for mileage, the PTSS continues to fall short in providing equitable access to healthcare for patients across regional and remote Queensland— Will the Minister commit to increasing the PTSS to address these disparities and ensure that the subsidy rates are sufficient to meet the needs of Queenslanders?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is always listening to Queenslanders so we can continue to deliver world-class healthcare to locals, no matter where they live.

The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) is an important part of Queensland's health system, as it provides travel and accommodation subsidies to ensure that rural and remote Queenslanders are supported to access specialist medical services that are not available close to home. The PTSS is a subsidy scheme that is not intended to cover all costs associated with travel.

For 2023-24, 90,000 eligible PTSS patients accessed the scheme with over 300,000 occasions of services processed. This patient activity continues to grow and for 2024-25 the Government has allocated a budget of \$118.5 million for this scheme.

The Crisafulli Government will continue to monitor the efficacy of the PTSS to ensure it operates effectively and meets the needs of the community, and any consideration of additional funding needs to be done in the context of the broader Queensland fiscal environment.