

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 151**

**Asked on 5 March 2024**

**MR L MILLAR** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

### **QUESTION**

With reference to the Queensland Health subsidies paid to rural and regional patients who must travel to receive treatment have not been lifted since 2013. Given the cost of living crisis being experienced by Queenslanders—

Will the Minister commit to lifting the Patient Travel subsidies for accommodation and mileage to reflect the real financial costs being faced by patients travelling for treatment?

### **ANSWER**

As part of the 2023-24 State Budget and in response to rising cost of living pressures, 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.

Commencing 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.

Commencing on 1 July 2023, the Queensland Government also funded 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, has resulted in considerable growth to the PTSS budget, with \$113.8 million allocated to PTSS for 2023-24.

The Miles Government is always listening to Queenslanders so that we can continue to deliver world-class healthcare to locals, no matter where they live. We will continue to monitor the efficacy of the PTSS to ensure it operates effectively and meets the needs of the community.