

## Question on Notice

No. 1515

Asked on 10 December 2025

**MR B MELLISH** ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (in table format, reported separately by referring Hospital and Health Service) to the latest reportable date for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme the (a) number of patients, (b) number of claims and (c) proportion of payments made within 30 business days?

### ANSWER

The Crisafulli Government is boosting access to health services in regional Queensland so that Queenslanders have easier access to health services when they need them.

The Crisafulli Government's 2025-26 Budget is the largest budget ever allocated to the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS), with an investment of \$123.4 million.

The Crisafulli Government inherited record-high ambulance ramping and surgery waitlists, with hospitals stretched further than ever before after a decade of decline. We remain committed to delivering health services when Queenslanders need them most, reducing ambulance ramping and stabilising elective surgery waitlists.

Already our investment is seeing ambulance ramping reduce, elective surgery waitlists down and the Hospital Rescue Plan delivering across our State.

#### **PTSS (Jun – Sept 2025): (a) Number of patients, (b) number of claims.**

Cairns and Hinterland: (a) 4,520 (b) 11,441. Central Queensland: (a) 4,489 (b) 8,431. Central West: (a) 729 (b) 1,366. Children's Health Queensland: (a) 0 (b) 0. Darling Downs: (a) 3,565 (b) 18,148. Gold Coast: (a) 160 (b) 590. Mackay: (a) 3,084 (b) 7,956. Metro North: (a) 135 (b) 787. Metro South: (a) 66 (b) 603. North West: (a) 1,663 (b) 2,336. South West: (a) 1,220 (b) 3,833. Sunshine Coast: (a) 834 (b) 4,253. Torres and Cape: (a) 1,942 (b) 9,587. Townsville: (a) 3,535 (b) 9,777. West Moreton: (a) 167 (b) 1,673. Wide Bay: (a) 3,772 (b) 9,724.
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(c) I am advised that, while processing delays or backlogs can occur periodically, as of 25 November 2025 all reporting HHSs were processing PTSS subsidy payments within 30 working days from receipt of all necessary documents.

I note that the former government commissioned a consultancy firm to review the PTSS at a cost to taxpayers of approximately \$695,368.50. I am advised that despite this significant cost to taxpayers, no final report was delivered and no recommendations

were made. It is disappointing that this contract was entered into by the former government, which cost taxpayers almost \$700,000.