

Question on Notice

No. 403

Asked on 22 April 2026

MR J MARTIN ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON T NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise why cystic fibrosis public health patients are unable to access public healthcare through St Vincent's Toowoomba during the Toowoomba Hospital redevelopment, despite trained clinicians and existing service capability?

ANSWER

I thank the Member for his question and note his support for public health patients being treated in private hospitals and facilities.

The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service does not have an agreement with St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba to provide beds or services for either paediatric or adult patients for patient with cystic fibrosis (CF).

Public paediatric CF patients from the Toowoomba region continue to receive appropriate care through the Queensland Children's Hospital. Adult care for CF is primarily managed by the CF Unit at The Prince Charles Hospital, including post-transplant management.

The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) may be available to patients. The PTSS provides financial assistance to eligible patients who are required to travel for specialist health services not available locally (within 50 kilometres of the patient's closest public hospital or public health facility). The PTSS assists with travel and accommodation costs and is not intended to cover all costs associated with accessing specialist health services.