



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
Services
Minister for Women

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19 SEP 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3894-23, tabled in Parliament on 22 August 2023, in relation to increasing Patient Travel subsidies for rural patients.

The Palaszczuk Government acknowledges the significant additional costs Queenslanders living in rural and remote locations incur when accessing specialist health services.

In response to these growing pressures, and as part of the 2023-24 State Budget, the Palaszczuk Government provided an additional \$70.261 million funding over four years to increase existing Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) concession rates.

I am pleased to advise that from 1 July 2023, accommodation rates for eligible PTSS patients have increased to \$70 per person, per night and mileage concession rates have increased to 34 cents per kilometre. Also commencing from 2023-24 is funding to support the full cost of repatriation of deceased patients under the PTSS scheme 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 thank you for bringing this matter to my attention, and I trust that this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford