



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



Minister for Health

MI157628
MO: H/08/07786

05 NOV 2008

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 11 September 2008, regarding Petition number 1115-08 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

At this time, the Fraser Coast Health Service District (FCHSD) does not have a public dermatology service. I am also advised that there is no private dermatology service available in the Fraser Coast district. Due to the complex nature of health service delivery, it is not always possible to have all specialist services available in every district. However access to specialist services, unavailable locally, is facilitated through referral of the patient to a facility with this service available.

During service planning, the need for local Ear Nose Throat (ENT), Renal and Urology services has been identified as a priority for the FCHSD. The establishment of such services is a complex process and may take some time to progress. As FCHSD services develop, the opportunity to enhance services increases.

I am advised that these issues have been discussed by the District Manager of FCHSD and the Principal Petitioner, Mr. Richard Eilbeck.

Currently residents of the Fraser Coast region are referred to private and public dermatologists located in Bundaberg, the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Private and public patients are able to access these dermatology services through referral to the relevant health service/provider.

Patients residing in the Fraser Coast region, who require dermatology services, may be eligible for assistance under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS). The purpose of PTSS is to facilitate equity of access to essential health care services for Queensland residents through:

- Contributing to the cost of patient transport.
- Contributing to the cost of patient accommodation.
- Contributing to the cost of transport and accommodation for escorts that may be required to ensure the effective treatment of patients.

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Should petitioners have any queries regarding their eligibility under the PTSS they are welcome to contact the Travel Office of either Maryborough Base Hospital on Telephone 4122 8301 or Hervey Bay Hospital on Telephone 4120 6607.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Dr Tim Smart, Executive Director of Medical Services for FCHSD, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone (07) 4120 6859.

Yours sincerely

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

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP