



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
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C-ECTF-24/9559

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

Email: ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 4049-24, tabled in Parliament on 11 June 2024, in relation to the removal of the four night rule for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS).

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

The PTSS is an important element in Queensland's public health system, as it provides financial assistance to patients needing to travel for specialist healthcare that are not available locally (within 50 kilometres of their nearest hospital or health facility).

Currently, eligible PTSS patients are required to pay for the first four nights of accommodation in each financial year. However, this requirement is waived if the patient is a minor or the patient holds a valid concession card.

I am also advised that the PTSS Guidelines allow for approval of financial assistance in relation to patient travel at the discretion of the relevant Hospital and Health Service (HHS). I encourage all Queenslanders in need of this assistance to contact their HHS about the cost of their accommodation.

As Queensland continues to grow, our health needs and the way healthcare is delivered continue to evolve. With this in mind, I can advise that Queensland Health is currently reviewing the four-night requirement, with a view to its impacts on healthcare accessibility for locals in regional, rural and remote communities.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Shannon Fentiman MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services
Minister for Women
Member for Waterford