

MI143766
MO: H/07/00912

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 9 February 2007, regarding a petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 778-07. As you will be aware the Minister for Health, the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, is recuperating and he has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is designed to assist patients to access essential specialist medical services, which are not available in their local area, by subsidising transport and accommodation costs. The intent of the Scheme is not to cover the entire costs associated with accessing this medical care but rather to offer a subsidy towards these costs.

It is acknowledged that many rural and remote patients have concerns about the current rates of payment for mileage and accommodation. Queensland Health has recently examined the Scheme and is considering a range of options regarding the Scheme. The comments in petition No.778-07 have been noted and referred for inclusion in this consideration.

Should you have any queries regarding my advice to you, Ms Sandra Eyre, Manager, Policy Branch, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 3234 0067.

Yours sincerely

Desley Boyle MP
Member for Cairns
Minister for Child Safety
Acting Minister for Health