

# Constituent Question in Parliament

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Miriam Beswick MP, Member for Braddon  
Jacqui Lambie Network

ANSWERED BY: Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Health,  
Mental Health and Wellbeing

### QUESTION:

A Flinders Island constituent recently travelled to Melbourne to seek medical treatment under the Patient Transfer Assistance Scheme. They successfully received their medical treatment but extended their stay, delaying their return travel. As a result of the small delay in return travel, the constituent was ineligible for a full reimbursement under the scheme. The PTAS information on the website does not clearly advertise that a delay will negate reimbursement and the application for reimbursement process commences after travel.

1. Considering the principle of equity underpinning the scheme, how is this fair to families who are relying on this funding to make medical treatment affordable?

### ANSWER:

The Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS) Operational Framework is publicly available on the Department of Health website and while I do sympathise with your constituent, it must be applied consistently to ensure fairness and equity for all applicants.

In relation to the specific incidence as described, I can advise:

The Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS) Operational Framework specifies that:

*PTAS subsidies are for medical travel only. Transport and accommodation costs associated with personal stopovers and extended stays for non-clinical*

*reasons are not eligible for PTAS subsidies. (Section 2, page 12 'Transport Assistance')*

PTAS does support travel a day either side of medical appointments in recognition that delays can occur with travel and medical appointments.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 11 June 2024