

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Brian Mitchell MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

The Government continues to fail women living in regional Tasmania who require breast cancer screening. Gaye has been trying since August to apply for reimbursement for travel and accommodation that you said would be available after you took a mobile breast screening clinic off the road. More than two-and-half months later, Gaye still hasn't got a straight answer about who she should apply to and how long reimbursement will take. Why are women in regional Tasmania who need a breast cancer screening examination bearing the cost of your government's failure to manage the State's finances?

ANSWER:

BreastScreen Tasmania has established a temporary travel subsidy scheme targeting clients who regularly screen with Luna, the decommissioned mobile unit. Clients who travel more than 50 kilometres one way from their usual screening site to an alternative location are eligible to apply. Clients who travel more than 100 kilometres one way can also apply for an accommodation subsidy.

Clients can apply by filling out the necessary form and sending it to BreastScreen Tasmania. I am informed that BreastScreen has so far received and processed around 220 claims. The form is available on BreastScreen Tasmania's website and at all screening sites. Clients can also contact BreastScreen Tasmania via 13 20 50 for more detail regarding the travel subsidy.

BreastScreen Tasmania would be pleased to discuss with Gaye any barriers affecting her ability to access alternative screening locations. Gaye can contact the Clients Services Manager of BreastScreen Tasmania directly on (03) 6166 2795.



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