

# CONSTITUENT QUESTION

## House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Anita Dow MP

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

### QUESTION:

My question is from Darrell in Burnie, and Darrell asks: with the increasing cost of fuel, will the government increase the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS) rate from Burnie to Hobart for locals travelling to access health services in Hobart?

### ANSWER:

The Tasmanian Government understands the importance of PTAS in assisting eligible patients to access specialist medical services when these are not available locally.

Existing PTAS policy is that ground travel and accommodation subsidies are indexed every three years in line with the aggregate Consumer Price Index (CPI) change for Hobart, to help ensure the Scheme remains fair and sustainable over time.

However, we do understand the cost-of-living pressures faced by Tasmanians during this period of economic uncertainty, and the Department of Health is looking at what assistance can be provided, including changes to PTAS subsidies, should the conflict continue to affect Tasmanians in coming months.

We also welcome the recent decision from the Federal government to halve the fuel excise, following significant advocacy from our Government. This is providing meaningful relief for Tasmanian households and businesses facing rising costs.

*Bridget Archer*

Hon Bridget Archer MP  
**Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Date: *10/4/26*