

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Guyula to Minister Manison:

**Remote flight costs**

- 1. The Queensland Government subsidises flights for many remote communities. What is the NT Government doing to address the expensive costs of remote flights in the NT?**

The Northern Territory (NT) Government assists in a number of ways to reduce the cost of living pressures for residents. As examples, the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme is a subsidy program that provides financial help for travel and accommodation expenses for residents that need to travel a long distance to see an approved medical specialist.

In the remote aviation space, the NT Government assists with funding the maintenance and upgrading of airside infrastructure at 69 aerodromes in remote communities across the NT.

The NT Government funds an Aerodrome Reporting Officer role at 18 of the 69 aerodromes to ensure Civil Aviation Safety Authority regulatory standards are met and scheduled air transport operations can continue to operate.

The NT Government (with support from the Australian Government) works to ensure these remote communities have year-round, safe and equitable access to larger servicing cities and towns. The NT Government expends \$7 million per annum on average across the 69 aerodromes to achieve this.

The NT Government has provided funding support for Airnorth's Centre-run service since 2015. The service operates up to 3 times per week, connecting Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs, and is the only scheduled air service for Katherine and Tennant Creek.

The Australian Government's long standing Remote Air Service Subsidy Scheme supports air freight services to around 92 remote NT communities, and subsidised passenger services for local residents to 9 remote locations, including Robinson River, Finke, Milyakburra, Bulman, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Kaltukatjara.

Qantas and Virgin Australia provide resident fares for residents in regional centres in the NT they fly to, including the Alice Springs and Yulara catchments. The NT Government commends these schemes although recognises they are not available across all airlines and ports in the NT.