

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Health:

Patient Assistance Travel Program

- 1. What budget has been allocated for patient assistance travel for those in the Top End and Central Australia?**

The combined 2018-19 budget for the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) for Top End and Central Australia was \$19.853 million.

- 2. Are those budgets fully used? Does the scheme ever go over budget and by how much?**

The PATS budgets are generally fully utilised. In 2018-19, the Scheme went over budget by \$1.6 million for Top End Health Service.

- 3. Does Central Australia still have no dedicated vehicles under PATS? If not, why not and are there plans to get one?**

There are no dedicated PATS vehicles across the Northern Territory. In Central Australia, the Bush Bus or taxis are provided for eligible patients.

- 4. How often is the scheme reviewed? When will it next be reviewed?**

The scheme is reviewed internally every 1-2 years.