

PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME SUPPORT FOR CT SCANS

**976. Hon NIGEL HALLETT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) How much money has the state government spent on the patient assisted travel scheme to specifically assist Pilbara residents to obtain computerised tomography scans in Perth for 2003, 2004 and 2005?
- (2) How much money has the state government spent on the PAT scheme to specifically assist Karratha residents obtain CT scans in Port Hedland for 2003, 2004 and 2005?
- (3) Will the minister please provide details of the age and capabilities of the CT scanner in Port Hedland Regional Hospital?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

Noting the time, and in view of the fact that some financial details are in the answer, I seek leave to have the answer incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated -

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- 1) Under the Patient Assisted Transport Scheme (PATS), patients are required to go to the closest available specialist service. Port Hedland has a CT Scanner; therefore all Pilbara patients are required to travel to Port Hedland to be eligible for PATS for a CT scan. No patient is eligible to travel to Perth utilising PATS for a CT scan. Some patients will have been referred to Perth for specialist medical appointments not available regionally and may have a CT scan as part of this medical review and treatment but these patients are not being sent specifically for a CT scan. The answer therefore is nil for each of the years 2003, 2004, 2005.
- 2) The money spent on the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme to specifically assist Karratha residents to obtain CT Scans in Port Hedland for 2003, 2004 and 2005:

2003	\$	2004	\$	2005	\$
19 claims	\$3,492.02	18 claims	\$3,935.29	15 claims	\$2,518.83

- 3) The CT Scanner at Port Hedland Regional Hospital was installed in 1997 and is a 'single slice' machine. It is in the process of being replaced and a Tender has been advertised for a machine with the latest technology of a '16 multi-slice' CT Scanner. Applications for Tenders close on 7 December 2005 and the selection process will take place between February and March 2006. The purchase and installation of the new CT scanner is expected to be operational by April-May 2006.

Installation of a CT scanner is also planned for the Kimberley and is to be installed at the Broome Health Service in mid 2006 thus reducing the need to transfer Kimberley patients to Port Hedland for CT scans.

Port Hedland Regional Hospital currently provides a wide variety of CT examinations such as heads, chest, abdomens and extremities for the patients from the Pilbara, Gascoyne and Kimberley regions.

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