

HEALTH — PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME — PEEL REGION

3731. Mr D.A. Templeman to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What impact has the opening of Fiona Stanley Hospital had on patients from Mandurah and the Peel Region in terms of their eligibility for access to Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)?
- (2) What are the exact boundaries that PATS services in the Mandurah/Peel Region are available?
- (3) Which localities in Mandurah and the Peel Region are now ineligible for PATS coverage?
- (4) How has the change in PATS coverage been communicated to people now affected by the opening of Fiona Stanley Hospital?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

- (1) The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) provides subsidies for:
Persons needing to travel more than 100km one way to the nearest eligible medical specialist services including a Telehealth service.
Persons needing to travel more than 70km to access specialist medical treatment for cancer or dialysis where that health service is unable to provide a transport service.
Some people in the Peel region live near the boundary of the PATS 100km radius. Whether they are eligible for PATS subsidies in travelling to the Perth metropolitan area for treatment depends on the hospital where their treatment is being provided.
Several services have been transferred from other hospitals to Fiona Stanley Hospital, and as a consequence there are some people from the Peel region whose eligibility for PATS will have ceased because they are receiving care closer to home and are having to travel less distance for their treatment.
- (2)–(3) The exact boundaries depend on the hospital where the patients are having their treatment. See the tabled paper which summarises the eligibility of residents of suburbs within the Peel region in traveling to different metropolitan hospitals.
[See tabled paper no 2825.]
- (4) Communication is undertaken on a one-to-one basis when applications are received.