

PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME

**578. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Despite the historical situation and given the cost of living as it is at the moment, will the minister commit to delivering a doubling at least of the fuel subsidy in the midyear economic and fiscal outlook process?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

History counts because there is context here and it is important that members understand the context. I acknowledge that the member was not in this place when the former Liberal–National government ignored it. I understand that the cost of living is biting across the state and across the country. There is no question about that. But this government has not only invested in increasing PATS, but also seen record investment; no government has ever invested more in regional health care and infrastructure than this government. The best outcome is getting health care closer to where people live. That is what this government is investing in and that is what we are delivering. We have doubled access to cancer services in regional Western Australia since we have come to government. We have doubled access to cancer services so that people do not have to travel multiple times to Perth. We opened a beautiful radiation oncology facility down in Albany so those patients do not have to travel. We are redeveloping regional health campuses and expanding services in major regional health campuses. There has not been investment in regional health care of this scale ever from any government and we are very proud of our regional investment. We have significantly lifted the PATS rebates since we have been in government.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, that concludes question time.