

PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME — SUBSIDIES

201. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. From the minister's answer, can I take it that there will be no increase to support regional families who are required to travel more than 100 kilometres to specialist medical care and to combat the impact that rising fuel prices will have on family budgets?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

That is not what I said. I said that the Leader of the Opposition is a hypocrite to stand in this place and claim that somehow the Labor Party in government has not done more to support regional communities than the Nationals ever did in eight and a half years and billions of dollars in pork-barrelling. That is what happened. The former government built centres that councils could not afford to run; it built infrastructure with no ongoing capital works. This government has increased the patient assisted travel scheme and has supported regional residents to access PATS. We are providing hundreds of thousands of free rapid antigen tests to people in regional communities, which the opposition has complained about. We are providing healthcare services so that people can stay in their regional communities. We are increasing investment in telehealth. This is the party that provides regional health care. Labor is the party that provides regional health care. We have made record capital investments. All you did was brand the form with royalties for regions.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Members, that concludes question time.