

Friday 22 May 2026

The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Queensland Government

Sent via email: health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

Re: Establishing a permanent stakeholder reference group for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

The Queensland Government's commitment to reviewing and reforming the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) is a vital step towards equitable access to healthcare in our state. With more than half of Queenslanders living outside Greater Brisbane and specialist services concentrated in major centres, a streamlined and modernised PTSS is essential to ensure that postcode does not determine whether people can access timely, life-saving care.

As a coalition of organisations, we strongly support the reform agenda and call on Queensland Health to establish a permanent PTSS stakeholder reference group as a structural cornerstone of that reform, with a view to commencement in 2026–27.

A standing advisory body, comprising lived experience, regional and remote representation, clinicians, community providers, and sector representatives, would provide an ongoing mechanism for structured feedback and unique organisation and regional-specific insights. This would help ensure reforms arising from the current review are effectively implemented, sustained, and strengthened over time. This is a low-cost, high-value governance measure that would reinforce accountability and demonstrate the Government's commitment to equitable access to healthcare for all Queenslanders, regardless of location.

The reference group should have a defined remit to provide regular advice on PTSS policy, administration, and implementation; identify regional variation and operational constraints; and surface emerging patient impacts across the state.

Membership should be multidisciplinary, including regional and remote lived experience, including youth representation; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health representatives; not-for-profit community service providers; relevant clinicians; and Queensland Health policy and operational representatives.

A permanent PTSS advisory group, consistent with established models in other jurisdictions, would provide a structured, ongoing mechanism to ensure patients who must travel for care, and the organisations that support them, are reflected in the design and delivery of accessible, timely, and affordable treatment.

Yours sincerely

This letter has been jointly endorsed by the following organisations and bodies:



Cc:

The Hon David Crisafulli, Premier and Minister for Veterans

The Hon David Janetzki, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership

Dr David Rosengren, Director-General, Queensland Health