

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 8

27 June 2025

Question No. 511

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: To ask the Minister for Health

- 1) In relation to the total claims for the Interstate Travel Scheme made in 2024-2025, (a) how many individuals made claims, successful or unsuccessful, (b) how many individuals successfully received reimbursement, (c) what was the average number of claims per person and (d) what was the average value of reimbursement.
- 2) In relation to the Interstate Travel Scheme in 2023-2024, which provided funding for 1,478 claims, (a) how many individuals made claims, successful or unsuccessful, (b) how many individuals successfully received reimbursement, (c) what was the average number of claims per person and (d) what was the average value of reimbursement.
- 3) In relation to eligibility requirements for the Interstate Travel Scheme, which state that someone is not eligible if “travelling to receive medical care from a health professional of your choice when that type of care is available in the ACT either publicly or privately”, (a) does this apply in cases in which patients may have to wait months or years in the ACT, but can access care in substantially less time in NSW, (b) if care is only available privately in the ACT, can a person access the scheme to receive care in the public system in NSW, and (c) does the Scheme take into consideration concerns around continuity of care, and choice of provider for patients (this is in relation to potentially having one option in Goulburn or rural NSW, versus many options in Sydney).

MS STEPHEN-SMITH MLA - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1)

Claims for the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme made in 2024-2025	
a) How many individuals made claims	Total - 741
• Successful	• Successful - 737
• Unsuccessful	• Unsuccessful - 4
b) How many individuals successfully received reimbursement	737
c) What was the average number of claims per person	2.13
d) What was the average value of reimbursement	\$780

2)

Claims for the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme made in 2023-2024	
a) How many individuals made claims <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful• Unsuccessful	Total - 652 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful - 652• Unsuccessful - not recorded
b) How many individuals successfully received reimbursement	652
c) What was the average number of claims per person	2.74
d) What was the average value of reimbursement	\$732

3)

- a) If the treatment is available in the ACT but wait times to access the treatments are significant for certain specialities, the ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) would provide limited financial assistance to seek treatment interstate.

- b) As outlined in the [IPTAS guidelines](#), a patient would not be eligible for financial assistance if they are travelling to receive medical care from a health professional of their choice when that type of care is available in the ACT either publicly or privately.

IPTAS does provide limited financial assistance to some patients who require specialised care interstate for continuity of care, and the eligibility for this would be on a case-by-case basis. IPTAS may approve travel to a health service that is not the closest to the ACT if:

- urgent treatment is required, and the nearest health service cannot provide care urgently;
- the nearest health service cannot provide the treatment required;
- the nearest health service refers the patient for a second opinion;
- the nearest health service has a waiting list, and the referrer tells us that delaying treatment would likely result in emergency admission or would badly affect the patient's health; or
- the patient does not have an escort, and the referrer tells us that the family support available at a more distant health service will result in better health outcomes for the patient.

If a patient travels to a health service that is not closest to the ACT because of family support and has an escort, IPTAS would pay a rebate amount equivalent to that had the patient travelled to the place closest to the ACT.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Health

Date:

31/7/25

This response required 2 hrs 27 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$184.22.

