



## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

### Report into Patient Assisted Travel Scheme on track

The Legislative Council of Western Australia's Standing Committee on Public Administration has been conducting an inquiry into how adequately the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) delivers assistance to regional people accessing specialist medical care.

PATS provides assistance – in the form of travel and accommodation subsidies – to patients for whom specialist medical care is not locally available.

The inquiry considered the level of funding applied to the transport and accommodation subsidies provided, eligibility for funding, the administration process and consideration of exceptional circumstances.

After receiving more than 100 submissions, the Public Administration Committee travelled to Albany, Broome, Carnarvon, Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland, Bunbury and Northam to meet with PATS patients and those who administer the scheme, as well as touring health care facilities. The submissions can be viewed online at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au/pub](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/pub)

'The Committee were made aware of some issues with PATS and commenced its own motion inquiry in February 2014,' said Chairman Liz Behjat. 'We have heard some compelling stories in evidence which will assist us in our deliberations.'

'We were able to visit regional Western Australia which gave us an insight into the current operations of PATS.'

'We will look carefully at all the evidence we gathered and make recommendations to Government as appropriate,' Liz Behjat said. 'We hope to table the report by the end of April.'

Media inquiries can be addressed to the Hon Liz Behjat MLC, Chairman, on 0419 510 166. Other inquiries should be addressed to Ms Tracy Sharpe, Committee Clerk, on 9222 7400 or at [lcpac@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:lcpac@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Hon Liz Behjat MLC  
**Chairman**

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