

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING**

Omitted question

Department of Health

Hon Wilson Tucker MLC asked:

2. Please identify digital inclusion initiatives administered by the agency, and for each initiative, please provide:

(a) The total investment, in both FY 2022-23, and over the forward estimates; and

The following WA Health digital initiatives are funded under the Digital Capability Fund:

Initiative	Total Investment from 2021-22 to 2025-26 \$ million
Human Resource Management Information System	294.4
Electronic Medical Recording	38.1
Real time Data Platform	18.2

(b) The KPI's by which the initiative's success may be measured?

Performance will be measured against the achievement of the following benefits.

Initiative	Benefits
Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment to State Government and WA Health strategies and objectives;</li> <li>• Improved operational workforce planning and management;</li> <li>• Better patient care and safety;</li> <li>• Contemporary service with digital and mobile capabilities;</li> <li>• Improved service levels and employee experience; and</li> <li>• Mitigate extreme service delivery and business continuity risks.</li> </ul>
Electronic Medical Record Program – Digital Medical Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved safety and patient outcomes;</li> <li>• More efficient clinical care; progress towards digital care; and achievement towards a single, legible and immediately accessible medical record across delivery sites.</li> </ul>
Real-time Data Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved management of the system's capacity and demand;</li> <li>• Faster and better informed decision making and management of pressures including inter-hospital transfer, bed occupancy, ED diversion strategies and ambulance ramping;</li> <li>• Enabler for the establishment of the State Health Operations Centre (SHOC) and interagency collaboration through shared operational intelligence.</li> </ul>

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING**

Omitted question

Department of Health

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC asked:

3) I refer to budget Paper 3, Page 297, Summary of State Government Social Concessions and I ask:

e) When was the last annual review of the fuel subsidy undertaken and please table the review?

Answer: A review of the PATS fuel subsidy was undertaken in 2020. The Review can be tabled.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'MS' or similar, located at the bottom center of the page.

## Fuel subsidy review - 2020

Proposed Changes	Amended Initiative
Fuel subsidy	Increase private vehicle subsidy to 20c per km and apply an annual CPI indexation

The WA Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Administration inquiry into PATS (PATS Review) in 2015 identified two recommendations in relation to fuel subsidies:

- *Recommendation 1 - Current fuel subsidy provided by the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme be increased to reflect a more realistic proportion of fuel costs incurred by patients.*
- *Recommendation 2 - Annual escalation adjustment to subsidy rates to reflect changes to fuel costs*

The PATS fuel subsidy was last reviewed in 2009. At the time the fuel subsidy increased from 13 cents per kilometre travelled to 16 cents per kilometre. Data from the Australian Institute of Petroleum ([www.aip.com.au](http://www.aip.com.au)) indicates a 21.5% increase in average petrol retail price in WA from 2009 to 2019. Applying a 21.5% increase in the PATS fuel subsidy per kilometre aligned to petrol retail price growth would increase the subsidy rate from 16 cents per kilometre to 19.44 cents per kilometre.

A benchmarking exercise was completed in July 2019 across patient travel assistance schemes in Australia. The fuel subsidy compares as follows:

**Table 17: Jurisdictional Benchmarking – Fuel Subsidy/KM**

State/Territory	Fuel Subsidy per Kilometre
Western Australia	16 cents
Victoria	20 cents
Queensland	30 cents
New South Wales	19 cents
South Australia	16 cents
Tasmania	21 cents
Northern Territory	20 cents & \$50 per trip
Australian Capital Territory	Not comparable

### PATS Current Expenditure and Activity

PATS expenditure on fuel subsidies for 2018/19 was approximately \$6.08 million for around 38.7 million claimed kilometres. The subsidy paid per kilometre was 16 cents.

**Table 18: Fuel subsidy PATS 2018-19**

Region	No. trips	Claimed kilometers	PATS Expenditure – Fuel Subsidy
Goldfields	6,709	8,132,026	\$1,302,292
Great Southern	12,608	8,070,227	\$1,296,106
Kimberley	581	548,864	\$88,449
Midwest	10,674	8,314,186	\$1,333,769
Pilbara	1,132	2,150,006	\$353,669
South West	12,613	4,799,042	\$768,791
Wheatbelt	17,927	6,651,244	\$1,063,949
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,244</b>	<b>38,665,595</b>	<b>\$6,207,026</b>

Data source: PATS Online Database

### **PATS Amended Subsidy Rate**

Aligned to benchmarked fuel subsidies and review of historical fuel price increases, it is proposed to increase the fuel subsidy to 20 cents per kilometre and implement an annual review (CPI increase). This reflects recommendations 1 and 2 from the 2015 Standing Committee’s review and would result in an increased funding requirement from current subsidies of \$2.0 million for 2021/22 and \$9.5 million over the four year forward estimate period.

Table 19 outlines the forward estimate funding requirements to implement an increased fuel subsidy.

**Table 19: Forward estimate funding requirements – fuel subsidy 2021/22 – 2024/25**

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Projected Activity (number of kms)	40,735,924	41,450,382	42,177,370	42,917,108
Original Subsidy	\$6,367,319	\$6,478,994	\$6,592,628	\$6,708,254
Additional PATS Fuel Subsidy Funding	\$1,981,530	\$2,239,471	\$2,511,528	\$2,798,361
<b>Net cost</b>	<b>\$8,348,849</b>	<b>\$8,718,465</b>	<b>\$9,104,156</b>	<b>\$9,506,615</b>