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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### CRIPPS WELCOMES LONG OVERDUE INCREASE IN PTSS

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has warmly welcomed the announcement by the Newman Government that the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) will double for Queenslanders living in the regions – fulfilling a key LNP election commitment.

Mr Cripps, who has been fighting for an increase in the PTSS for years, said the announcement meant patients in the Hinchinbrook electorate who had to travel long distances for medical treatment would be provided with more financial assistance.

“The Newman Government has committed an additional \$106 million over four years to ensure regional Queenslanders have more affordable access to the medical care they need. I am very proud of this announcement by the LNP” said Mr Cripps.

“The travel subsidy will double from 15 cents to 30 cents per kilometre and the accommodation subsidy will also double from \$30 to \$60 per night per person. This is the first time the accommodation subsidy has been increased since 1987” he said.

“The previous Labor government increased the subsidy by 5 cents per kilometre in 2007, but these significant increases in both the travel and accommodation subsidy will be a truly meaningful improvement for regional patients” said Mr Cripps.

“The PTSS provides important financial support for rural and remote patients to access specialist health services that are more than 50km away from their closest public hospital. It is an essential service for people in bush” he said.

“The PTSS is a critical support for people with chronic illnesses, pensioners and other patients on low and fixed incomes. This announcement demonstrates the LNP’s commitment to revitalising front line services” said Mr Cripps.

“I am absolutely delighted to see the representations I have been making for many years on behalf of my constituents have now have paid off. Finally, Queensland has a State Government that is listening to the regions and understands their needs” he said.

Mr Cripps congratulated the Premier, the Health Minister and the Treasurer for delivering on the election commitment of the LNP to increase the PTSS and thanked them on behalf of the many patients in the Hinchinbrook electorate that would benefit from the announcement.

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