

5 February 2025

Dr David Rosengren  
Director-General  
Queensland Health

**By email:** [REDACTED]

**Subject: Temporary PTSS increase for medical imaging**

Dear David

You will be aware of ongoing issues for patients needing medical imaging services, particularly for breast diagnostic imaging in regional areas across Queensland.

We have had many AMA Queensland members contact us concerned about the significant wait times (up to 3 months) their patients are experiencing and consequent high risk of delayed diagnoses and poorer health outcomes. Some radiology practices are advising regional GPs to refer patients to other areas due to extended wait times.

One of the solutions proposed by doctors is to make the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme temporarily available to patients needing radiology services sooner than the current wait times in the patient's local area.

We believe this has merit in the short-term and could be limited to:

- patients who do not have a medical imaging service within 50km of their place of residence that is accepting referrals within clinically recommended timeframes
- medical imaging services which are not currently operating in the patient's local area (i.e. if a particular corporation is already operating in a patient's home region, the patient could not access the PTSS for that same corporation in a different region but could access the PTSS for a different corporation not operating in the patient's local area)
- a maximum subsidy amount (e.g. \$300 for travel expenses)
- a 6-month period to be reassessed for ongoing need.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss these and other ideas for improving medical imaging access to regional patients to ensure equity with the metropolitan-based Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Yim  
**President**  
**AMA Queensland**

Dr Brett Dale  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**AMA Queensland**

Copied to:

Dr Catherine McDougall, Chief Medical Officer

Dr Helen Brown, Deputy Director-General, Clinical Excellence Queensland