

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Government's IPTAAS Scheme misses the mark

*12 May 2004*

Member for Tamworth Peter Draper has reminded the NSW Health Minister of the need to address problems associated with the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Scheme (IPTAAS).

Mr Draper raised the issue in Parliament yesterday, calling on the Minister to increase funding to the IPTAAS and address problems associated with the scheme which were well documented last year at the Vision New England Summit in Armidale and are yet to be implemented.

Funded by the NSW Government, IPTAAS is designed to provide rural and regional patients with financial assistance for travel and accommodation costs incurred in accessing specialist medical services that are not available within 200km of their homes.

But as Mr Draper told Parliament, recent cases in his electorate have demonstrated the scheme's eligibility criteria is too restrictive to cover the full range of medical specialisations and does not go far enough to ensure patients with genuine cases are reimbursed.

Mr Draper spoke of a Werris Creek man who was denied financial assistance after suffering a heart attack because he fell ill in Ballina and not his hometown.

He has also been approached by a family that was denied assistance with travel from Tamworth to Brisbane because the scheme does not cover speech therapy.

He reminded the Minister Morris Iemma of the key recommendations relating to the IPTAAS that were passed at the Vision New England Summit in October last year and reiterated a number of concerns expressed by the NSW Cancer Council.

**Continued...**

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

Media Contacts: Peter Draper 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422  
Donna Hurley 0419 409 538 Parliament House ph. 9230 2341

# PETER DRAPER

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

## MEDIA RELEASE

“Due to the shortage of medical specialists in the region and the fact that people have to travel long distances to access the treatment they need, this is an issue that is affecting numerous residents in my electorate,” he said.

“I have asked Mr lemma to increase funding to better reflect the true cost of the IPTAAS and to make certain changes to the eligibility criteria to give genuine cases access.”

**Mr Draper’s May 11 speech can be read in the NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard as attached.**

*End Release*

[www.peterdraper.com.au](http://www.peterdraper.com.au)

Media Contacts: Peter Draper 0417 290 376 Electorate Office ph. 6766 1422  
Donna Hurley 0419 409 538 Parliament House ph. 9230 2341