



**PATIENT ASSISTED TRANSPORT SCHEME TO BENEFIT
EXPECTING MOTHERS FROM CEDUNA AND ROXBY DOWNS
15 FEBRUARY 2001**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said women from the Ceduna district and Roxby Downs can now claim from the Patient Assisted Transport Scheme (PATS) for travel and accommodation assistance when having to travel to a larger centre to give birth.

“Doctors in some rural areas are not registering for obstetrics because of the high cost of indemnity insurance,” Mrs Penfold said.

“Ceduna is one of the districts that has been left without a doctor to deliver babies.

“This situation puts an additional cost on families because the mother has to travel to a registered centre for the delivery and, of course, a waiting period prior to the birth.”

Mrs Penfold said patients could choose their own hospital therefore they may go to Port Lincoln, Whyalla or elsewhere.

The attending doctor does not have to be a specialist (as is required for patients to be eligible for PATS) but can be a general practitioner skilled in obstetrics.

“The Minister for Human Services, Dean Brown has recognised the financial strain that the loss of local obstetric services puts on families, and has put these special temporary arrangements as a measure of support,” she said.