



**PATS funding for ferry
16 April 2007**

People using the Lucky Bay-Wallaroo ferry when travelling to Adelaide for medical treatment will be able to claim half the costs from the Patient Assisted Transport Scheme (PATS).

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said she was delighted with the response to her letter by the Minister for Health that 50% of ferry costs, including both the passenger fares and normal vehicle charge along with a relevant prescribed mileage allowance, will be able to be claimed from PATS.

“Soon after the ferry was announced, I was contacted by a constituent who has to take his son to Adelaide regularly for medical treatment.

“I always felt that for many patients the ferry is more convenient than flying or driving around the gulf through Port Augusta.

They would arrive more rested and have the use of their car during the day to attend appointments. In future, when two ferries are crossing the Gulf they may be able to get home and sleep in their own beds making huge cost savings in taxis and accommodation.

“The ferry is a boon to all Eyre Peninsula residents but particularly to those with chronic illnesses who have to travel to Adelaide regularly,” she said.

Mrs Penfold praised the constituent who, though not needing the ferry service for his own medical purposes, brought the matter of PATS refunds to her attention in January.

“It shows the ‘power of one’ and the value of constituents bringing their concerns and ideas to their local Member of Parliament,” she said.