

A GUIDE TO PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEMES



Patient assisted travel schemes are an important element of providing equitable access to essential health services for people in rural and remote Australia. The schemes are managed by the states and territories. See details of the schemes below (current as of November 2019).

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME:	Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) Phone: 02 5124 9082 Email: IPTAS@act.gov.au Website	Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) Phone: 1800 IPTAAS Email: iptaas@health.nsw.gov.au Website	Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) Alice Springs: 08 8951 7846 Barkly: 08 8962 4262 Darwin: 08 8922 8135 East Arnhem: 08 8987 0201 Katherine: 08 8973 9215 Website	Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) Phone: 13 HEALTH Website
BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: additional requirements may apply	Current referral for nearest specialist medical service not available in the ACT.	More than 100 km one way, or at least 200 km in a week by making multiple trips to and from treatment at an approved health service.	More than 200 km one way to the nearest approved medical specialist. A cumulative distance of more than 400 km per week for renal or oncology treatment.	More than 50 km one way from the closest public hospital or health facility to the nearest eligible medical specialist, and patient is unable to use telehealth.
TRAVEL SUBSIDY:	Rebates up to specified amount (return): Private vehicle – Sydney \$110, Melbourne \$220, Adelaide \$300, Brisbane \$440; Coach – Sydney \$90, Melbourne \$160, Adelaide \$290, Brisbane \$390; Rail – Sydney \$125, Melbourne \$230, Adelaide \$260, Brisbane \$260. Economy air fare where medically endorsed and with prior approval.	Private vehicle 22 cents per km. Taxi fares – one day visit: max \$20, 2–7 day visit: max \$40, 8–14 day visit: max \$80, 15+ day visit: max \$160. Economy public transport fare excluding GST. Economy air fare excluding GST, where approved.	Private vehicle 20 cents per km per patient, to a maximum three patients per vehicle. Lowest available fare for bus and air travel within NT. Ground transport reimbursement to a maximum of \$50 per return journey.	Private vehicle 30 cents per km. Commercial travel (air, bus, ferry or rail) lowest available discount fare excluding GST.
ACCOMMODATION SUBSIDY PER APPROVED PERSON: includes the patient and an approved escort	Commercial accommodation subsidy of up to \$44 per night per person. Private accommodation is no longer supported.	Commercial accommodation subsidy: 1–7 nights – \$43 (single) or \$60 (shared) per night; 8–14 nights – \$80 (single) or \$105 (shared) per night; 15+ nights – \$105 (single) or \$120 (shared) per night. Not-for-profit accommodation subsidy: 1–7 nights – \$43 (single) or \$60 (shared) per night; 8+ nights – \$65 (single) or \$85 (shared) per night. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$60 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of up to \$60 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of \$10 per night per person.
KEY ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:	N/A	N/A	N/A	Eligible patients are required to pay the first four nights of accommodation each financial year, unless they are under 18 or a concession card holder.

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	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME:	<p>Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS)</p> <p>Phone: 1300 341 684 Email: CHSAPATS@sa.gov.au Website</p>	<p>Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS)</p> <p>Royal Hobart Hospital: 03 6166 8225 Launceston General Hospital: 03 6777 6249 North West Regional Hospital: 03 6477 7734 Website</p>	<p>Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS)</p> <p>Phone: 1300 737 073 Email: vptas@dhhs.vic.gov.au Website</p>	<p>Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)</p> <p>Goldfields Kalgoorlie: 08 9080 5681 Esperance: 08 9079 8101 Great Southern 1800 728 747 Kimberley Broome: 08 9194 2236 Derby: 08 9193 3349 Fitzroy Crossing: 08 9193 3349 Midwest Geraldton, Midwest & Murchison: 08 9956 2216 Gascoyne: 08 9941 0313 Pilbara 1800 138 653 South West 1800 823 131 Wheatbelt 1800 728 792 Peel 08 9599 4485 Website</p>
BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: additional requirements may apply	More than 100 km each way to access necessary and approved medical specialist services not available locally.	More than 50 km one way to the nearest oncology or dialysis treatment centre. More than 75 km one way to the nearest appropriate medical specialist or lymphoedema treatment. Assistance for interstate referrals only when treatment is not available in Tasmania.	More than 100 km one way or an average of 500 km per week for one or more weeks to approved medical or dental specialist services.	More than 100 km one way to access nearest eligible medical specialist service (including a telehealth service) or travel between 70–100 km one way to access specialist medical treatment for cancer or dialysis.
TRAVEL SUBSIDY:	Private vehicle 16 cents per km. Cheapest form of public transport. Economy air fare where medically endorsed OR when combined cost of surface travel subsidy and two nights of accommodation is more than return air travel.	Private vehicle 21 cents per km. Economy return bus ticket. Economy air or ferry ticket for interstate travel.	Private vehicle 21 cents per km. Economy public transport fare. Economy air fare only if the journey exceeds 350 km one way and a commercial flight is used. Taxi fare only to or from nearest public transport when there are no other transport options.	Private vehicle 16 cents per km. Community bus transporting two or more clients 25 cents per km. Economy rail or coach fare. Economy air fare for: residents of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions and remote areas; distances requiring more than 16 hours surface travel one way; patients travelling more than 350 km by road for cancer treatment. Patients required to travel 70–100 km to access cancer or dialysis treatment are eligible for \$20 subsidy.
ACCOMMODATION SUBSIDY PER APPROVED PERSON: includes the patient and an approved escort	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of up to \$40 per night per person excluding GST (\$44 including GST) within SA and up to \$80 per night per patient (plus GST) for interstate travel.	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of up to \$66 per night per person within Tasmania and up to \$87 per night per person for interstate travel.	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of up to \$45 per night per person (\$49.50 including GST).	Commercial accommodation subsidy of up to \$60 per night for the patient and up to \$15 per night for an escort. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.
KEY ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:	Concession card holders are eligible for an accommodation subsidy for the first night of accommodation. Non-concession card holders are required to pay for their first night of accommodation.	Pensioner or health care concession card holders are required to contribute \$16.50 per return trip (capped at \$132 per year). Non-concession cardholders are required to contribute \$82.50 per return trip (capped at \$330 per year). Non-concession cardholders are required to pay the first two nights' accommodation costs.	Non-pensioners and those without a health care concession card are required to pay the first \$100 each treatment year for their travel and accommodation. Reimbursement payment made via electronic funds transfer only.	Accommodation subsidies are only available for people who live more than 100 km one way from the treatment centre. Residents requiring highly specialised medical care not available in WA may be eligible for assistance from the Interstate Patient Transfer Scheme. Phone: 08 9222 2474 Email: IPTS@health.wa.gov.au