

# PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEMES (PATS)

## FACT SHEET

October 2013

This fact sheet was produced by Breast Cancer Network Australia

Patient Assisted Travel Schemes (PATS) provide people in rural areas of Australia with financial assistance towards the costs of travelling to, and staying near, specialist medical services for treatment. The scheme is run by each state and territory, which is why the financial assistance differs according to location.

BCNA has concerns about the adequacy of the state and territory programs to meet the needs of people who require assistance with travel and accommodation costs. To read further about BCNA's work in this area visit [www.bcna.org.au](http://www.bcna.org.au).

This fact sheet provides information about each state and territory scheme, and where to find more details.

Commercial accommodation refers to accommodation that is registered as a business, for example, hotels, motels, and caravan parks. Private accommodation refers to accommodation at a private residence, for example, the home of a family member or friend.

	Travel reimbursement scheme	Basic eligibility requirements	Travel subsidy	Accommodation subsidy per approved person (patient and approved escort)	Key additional conditions
<b>ACT</b>	Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS). Tel: (02) 6205 3299 Website: <a href="http://www.health.act.gov.au">www.health.act.gov.au</a>	Current referral for a specialist medical service not available in the ACT.	Private vehicle rebates up to specified amount depending on state (Sydney \$101.48, Melbourne \$225.50, Adelaide \$420.25, Brisbane \$462.28).  The costs of the least expensive form of public transport up to specified amount depending on the destination state. Economy air fare where additional criteria are met.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$36.90 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of \$11.28 per night per person.	N/A
<b>NSW</b>	Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS). Tel: (02) 9391 9000 Website: <a href="http://www.health.nsw.gov.au">www.health.nsw.gov.au</a>	More than 100 kms one way to the nearest medical specialist. A cumulative distance of 200 kms or more in one week to access specialist medical treatment.	Private vehicle \$0.19 per km. The maximum subsidy available for taxi fares (one visit: max \$20, 2–7 day visit: max \$40, 8–14 day visit: max \$80, 15+ day visit: max \$160). Economy public transport fare. Economy air fare where medically endorsed.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$43 per night for a single room or \$60 per night for a double room. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.	Non pensioners and those without a health care card must personally contribute \$40 toward each return trip (contributions are capped once subsidies reach \$1000 within a one year period).





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<b>NT</b>	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS). Katherine Tel: (08) 8973 9206 Darwin Tel: (08) 8922 8135 Alice Springs Tel: (08) 8951 7846 Tennant Creek Tel: (08) 8962 4262 Gove District Tel: (08) 8987 0201 Website: <a href="http://www.health.nt.gov.au">www.health.nt.gov.au</a>	More than 200 kms one way to the nearest medical specialist. A cumulative distance of 400 kms or more in one week to access specialist medical treatment.	Private vehicle \$0.20 per km. Lowest available fare for bus and air travel within NT. Ground transport reimbursement of \$50 for an interstate trip.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$60 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.	N/A
<b>QLD</b>	Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS). Tel: (07) 3328 9076 Website: <a href="http://www.health.qld.gov.au">www.health.qld.gov.au</a>	Nearest medical specialist is more than 50 kms from the local public hospital.	Private vehicle \$0.30 per km. Cheapest form of public transport. Economy airfare where medically endorsed.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$60 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of \$10 per night per person.	Non pensioners and those without health care cards must personally contribute the first 4 nights' accommodation per financial year.
<b>SA</b>	Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS). Tel: 1800 188 115 Website: <a href="http://www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au">www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au</a>	More than 100 kms one way to the nearest specialist.	Private vehicle \$0.16 per km. Cheapest form of public transport. Economy air fare where medically endorsed.	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of up to \$30 per night per person.	Claimants are required to make a personal contribution of \$30 per return trip which is subtracted from the eligible travel benefit, unless hardship application accepted. Non pensioners and those without health care cards must meet the costs of first night of accommodation.



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<b>Tas</b>	<p>Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS).</p> <p>Royal Hobart Hospital Tel: (03) 6222 8225</p> <p>Launceston General Hospital Tel: (03) 6348 7249</p> <p>North West Regional Hospital Tel: (03) 6430 3673</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au">www.dhhs.tas.gov.au</a></p>	<p>More than 50kms one way to the nearest oncology centre. More than 75kms one way to medical specialist treatment or lymphoedema treatment.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.19 per km. Economy bus ticket. Economy air or ferry ticket for interstate travel.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy only of \$46 per night per person within Tasmania and \$64 per night per person for interstate.</p>	<p>Pensioners or health care card holders are required to make a personal contribution of \$15 per return trip (capped at \$120 per year). Non pensioners and those without a health care card must contribute \$75 per return trip (capped at \$300 per year).</p>
<b>Vic</b>	<p>Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS).</p> <p>Tel: 1300 737 073</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.health.vic.gov.au">www.health.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p>More than 100 kms one way to the nearest medical specialist OR Travel on average 500 kms per week for a minimum of 5 consecutive weeks (for ongoing cancer treatments)</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.17 per km. Economy public transport fare. Economy air fare only if the journey exceeds 350 kms one way.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy only of \$35 per night per person.</p>	<p>Non pensioners and those without a health care card are required to make a personal contribution of \$100 each treatment year.</p>
<b>WA</b>	<p>Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS).</p> <p>Tel: 1300 135 030</p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au">www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au</a></p>	<p>More than 70km each way to access specialist medical treatment for cancer treatment.</p> <p>More than 100 kms each way to access other eligible specialist medical treatment.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.16 per km. Economy rail or coach fare. Economy air fare (where possible) for patients undergoing cancer treatments for journeys more than 350 kms by road.</p> <p>Claimants travelling between 70–100 kms one way from medical specialist services are eligible for a flat subsidy of \$20 per return trip.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$60 per night for the patient and \$15 per night for an escort. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.</p>	<p>Accommodation subsidies are only available for people who live more than 100kms from the treatment centre.</p>