



PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEMES (PATS)

FACT SHEET

June 2017

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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 bcna.org.au.

This fact sheet provides information about each state and territory scheme, and where to find more details. The websites for each state and territory scheme (provided in the table) will give you the most up-to-date information, so we suggest that you check these regularly to see if there are any changes that apply to you.

Most schemes require that you keep your receipts as proof that you had travel expenses. It is a good idea for you to hold onto all receipts for any travel and accommodation expenses you incur in case you need them to support your claim later on.

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
ACT	Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS). Tel: (02) 6244 2234 Website: health.act.gov.au	Current referral for a specialist medical service not available in the ACT.	Private vehicle rebates up to specified amount depending on state (Sydney \$117.68, Melbourne \$261.50, Adelaide \$487.35, Brisbane \$536.08). The costs of the least expensive form of public transport up to specified amount depending on the destination state. Economy airfare where additional criteria are met.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$42.78 per night per person.	N/A





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NSW	<p>Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS).</p> <p>Tel: 1800 362 253</p> <p>Website: enable.health.nsw.gov.au/services/iptaas</p>	<p>More than 100 km one-way to the nearest medical specialist.</p> <p>A combined distance of 200 km or more in one week to access specialist medical treatment.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.22 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).</p> <p>Economy public transport fare.</p> <p>Economy airfare where medically endorsed.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$43 per night for a single room or \$60 per night for a patient and escort with rates increasing after the first seven nights per financial year.</p> <p>Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.</p>	<p>Non-pensioners and those without a health care card must personally contribute \$30 toward each return journey (contributions are capped at four co-payments totalling \$120 within a one-year period).</p>
NT	<p>Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS).</p> <p>Katherine Tel: (08) 8973 9215</p> <p>Darwin Tel: (08) 8922 8135</p> <p>Alice Springs Tel: (08) 8951 7846</p> <p>Barkly Tel: (08) 8962 4262</p> <p>East Arnhem Land Tel: (08) 8987 0201</p> <p>Website: nt.gov.au/wellbeing/health-subsidies-support-and-home-visits/patient-assistance-travel-scheme</p>	<p>More than 200 km one-way to the nearest medical specialist.</p> <p>A cumulative distance of 400 km or more in one week to access oncology treatment.</p>	<p>Private vehicle rebate of \$0.20 per km if you drive more than 200 km to an appointment.</p> <p>Lowest available fare for bus and air travel within NT.</p> <p>Ground transport reimbursement of a maximum of \$50 each trip.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy of up to \$60 per night. Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night per person.</p>	N/A
QLD	<p>Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS).</p> <p>Tel: 13 43 25 84</p> <p>Website: qld.gov.au/health/services/travel/subsidies/</p>	<p>Nearest medical specialist is more than 50 km from the nearest public hospital.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.30 per km. Air, bus and rail transport fully paid at lowest available discount fare.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy of \$60 per night per person.</p> <p>Private accommodation subsidy of \$10 per night per person.</p>	N/A
SA	<p>Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS).</p> <p>Tel: 1300 341 684</p> <p>Website: sahealth.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>More than 100 km one-way to the nearest specialist.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.16 per km by GPS from home to nearest treatment.</p> <p>Cheapest form of public transport.</p> <p>Economy airfare where medically endorsed.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy only of up to \$44 per night per person.</p>	<p>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.</p>



	Travel reimbursement scheme	Basic eligibility requirements	Travel subsidy	Accommodation subsidy per approved person (patient and approved escort)	Key additional conditions
Tas	<p>Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS).</p> <p>Tel: 1300 135 513</p> <p>Website: dhs.tas.gov.au</p>	<p>More than 50 km one-way to the nearest oncology centre.</p> <p>More than 75 km one-way to medical specialist treatment or lymphoedema treatment.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.21 per km.</p> <p>Economy bus ticket, airfare or ferry ticket for interstate travel.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy only of \$66 per night per person within Tasmania and \$87 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).</p> <p>Non-pensioners and those without a health care card must contribute \$75 per return trip (capped at \$330 per year).</p>
Vic	<p>Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS).</p> <p>Tel: 1300 737 073</p> <p>Website: health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/rural-health/vptas-how-to-apply</p>	<p>More than 100 km one-way to the nearest medical specialist or travel on average 500 km for one or more weeks to receive approved medical specialist services.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.20 per km.</p> <p>Economy public transport fare.</p> <p>Economy airfare only if the journey exceeds 350 km one-way.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy only of \$45.10 per night per approved 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>
WA	<p>Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS).</p> <p>Wheatbelt region: 1800 728 792</p> <p>Goldfields region (Kalgoorlie): (08) 9080 5681</p> <p>Goldfields region (Esperance): (08) 9079 8101</p> <p>South West region: 1800 823 131</p> <p>Kimberly region: (08) 9194 2236</p> <p>Pilbara region: 1800 138 653</p> <p>Midwest region: (08) 9956 2216</p> <p>Great Southern region: 1800 728 747</p> <p>Peel region: (08) 95864413</p> <p>Website: wacountry.health.wa.gov.au</p>	<p>More than 70 km each way to access specialist medical treatment for cancer treatment.</p> <p>More than 100 km each way to access other eligible specialist medical treatment.</p>	<p>Private vehicle \$0.16 per km.</p> <p>Economy rail or coach fare. Economy airfare (where possible) for patients undergoing cancer treatments for journeys more than 100 km by road.</p> <p>If two or more applicants are travelling in a minibus, or a similar group transport vehicle owned by a community or organisation, the fuel subsidy is \$0.25 per km per vehicle payable to the organisation.</p> <p>Claimants travelling between 70–100 km for cancer treatment are eligible for a flat subsidy of \$20 per return trip.</p>	<p>Commercial accommodation subsidy of up to \$60 per night for the patient and \$75 per night for an eligible applicant and approved escort.</p> <p>Private accommodation subsidy of \$20 per night or \$40 per night for an applicant with an escort.</p>	<p>Accommodation subsidies are only available for people who live more than 100 km from the treatment centre.</p>