NOVEMBER 2014

A GUIDE TO PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEMES

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE INC.

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 (current as of Nov 2014) below.

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME:	**Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS)** Phone: 02 6244 2234 www.health.act.gov.au/consumer-information/interstate-patient-travel/	**Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)** Phone: 02 9391 9000 www.health.nsw.gov.au/initiatives/iptaas/	**Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)** Katherine: 08 8973 9206 Darwin: 08 8922 8135 Alice Springs: 08 8951 7846 Tennant Creek: 08 8962 4262 Gove District: 08 8987 0201 www.health.nt.gov.au/Hospitals/Patient_Assistance_Travel_Scheme	**Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS)** Phone: 07 3328 9076 www.health.qld.gov.au/ptss
BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Additional requirements may apply	Current referral for a specialist medical service not available in the ACT.	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.	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.	Nearest medical specialist is more than 50 kms from the local public hospital.
TRAVEL SUBSIDY:	Private vehicle rebates up to a specified amount depending on state (Sydney $112.01, Melbourne $248.90.50, Adelaide $463.87, Brisbane $510.26). 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.	Private vehicle rebate of 19 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. Economy air fare where medically endorsed.	Private vehicle 20 cents per km. Lowest available fare for bus and air travel within NT. Ground transport reimbursement of $50 for an interstate trip.	Private vehicle 30 cents per km. Cheapest form of public transport. Economy airfare where medically endorsed.
ACCOMMODATION SUBSIDY PER APPROVED PERSON: Includes the patient and an approved escort	Commercial accommodation subsidy of $40.73 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of $12.45 per night per person.	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.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of $60 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of $20 per night per person.	Commercial accommodation subsidy of $60 per night per person. Private accommodation subsidy of $10 per night per person.
KEY ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:	N/A	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).	N/A	Non pensioners and those without health care cards must personally contribute the first 4 nights' accommodation per financial year.

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	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME:	**Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS)** Adelaide PATS: 08 8226 7215 www.countryhealthsa.sa.gov.au/pats	**Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS)** Royal Hobart Hospital: 03 6222 8225 Launceston General Hospital: 03 6348 7249 North West Regional Hospital: 03 6430 3673 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ambulance/ptas	**Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS)** Phone: 1300 737 073 www.health.vic.gov.au/ruralhealth/vptas/patients.htm	**Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)** Wheatbelt – 1800 728 792 Goldfields, Kalgoorlie – 9080 5681 Esperance – 9071 0886 SouthWest – 9427 9011 Kimberly – 9194 2236 Pilbara – 1800 138 653 Great Southern – 1800 728 747 www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/index.php?id=pats
BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: Additional requirements may apply	More than 100 kms one way to the nearest specialist.	More than 50kms one way to the nearest oncology centre. More than 75kms one way to medical specialist treatment or lymphoedema treatment.	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)	More than 70km each way to access specialist medical treatment for cancer treatment. More than 100 kms each way to access other eligible specialist medical treatment.
TRAVEL SUBSIDY:	Private vehicle 16 cents per km. Cheapest form of public transport. Economy air fare where medically endorsed.	Private vehicle 19 cents per km. Economy bus ticket. Economy air or ferry ticket for interstate travel.	Private vehicle 17 cents per km. Economy public transport fare. Economy air fare only if the journey exceeds 350 kms one way.	Private vehicle 16 cents 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. Claimants travelling between 70–100 kms one way from medical specialist services are eligible for a flat subsidy of $20 per return trip.
ACCOMMODATION SUBSIDY PER APPROVED PERSON: Includes the patient and an approved escort	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of up to $30 per night per person.	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of $46 per night per person within Tasmania and $64 per night per person for interstate.	Commercial accommodation subsidy only of $35 per night per person.	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.
KEY ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:	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.	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).	Non pensioners and those without a health care card are required to make a personal contribution of $100 each treatment year.	Accommodation subsidies are only available for people who live more than 100kms from the treatment centre.