

# Australian Patient Travel Subsidy Schemes

## Comparison of States and Territories

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The following table is intended as a quick reference and has been collated from information provided by a number of members of the NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia Consumer Advisory Group in 2019.

Please consult websites or State / Territory Authorities to check current information.

Common Features	Cover	Schemes generally cover cheapest transport (bus/ train) and sometimes air travel. Many cover or subsidise local taxis and public transport. Subsidise (very poorly) accommodation. Escort costs may be subsidised - see below (in this section).
	Basic Eligibility	Must RESIDE in the State or Territory. Eligible for M'care. Referred to NEAREST centre for APPROVED treatment that is not locally available (see below for distances). Likely to exclude clinical trials. Generally must have claimed any available benefits from a private health fund first.
	Escort or Carer	Automatic if <18 yrs. Usually approved for MAJOR surgery or procedures. Usually need the referrer to state that an escort is necessary. Never for "company". Sometimes (notably NT) if need to take a child <2 yrs.
	Applying	Determine your eligibility on relevant website (see links below). Have the "scheme" book for you or make your own bookings (keep receipts). Apply for refund online or download forms and submit per website instructions. Await EFT.
	Appeals	See websites for complaints and appeals processes.

### DIFFERENCES

State / Territory	Name of Scheme	Information and forms	Distance Eligibility	Travel (AUD)	Accommodation (AUD)	Stated Payment Time
QLD	Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS)	<a href="#">Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS)</a>	Greater than 50 km	Full cost of air / bus / rail / ferry (lowest discount fare) or \$0.30 per km for private car	\$60 per night for commercial or \$10 for private. Have to pay first 4 nights accom for each financial year unless a minor or concession card holder	30 working days
NSW	IPTAAS (Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme)	<a href="#">Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme</a>	At least 100km (one way), or at least 200kms in a week by making multiple trips to and from treatment	Full cost of public transport. 22 cents per kilometre for private vehicle. Air travel requires special approval	\$43/ night (or \$60 with an escort). Increases on sliding scale for > 7 days. Private stay \$20 per night per person	30 days
	Council Community Transport	<a href="#">Council Community Transport</a>	Area varies between councils	To and from hospitals and shopping etc starting early but last pick up is 4.30pm. Some drivers make allowances		Joining fee with council \$10 - then \$5-10 per trip each way, depending on council – call your local council for availability
	Taxi subsidy scheme	<a href="#">Taxi subsidy – Application Form</a>	Any distance	To and from hospital appointments. Booking in advance required informing you have cabcharge		Taxi rates are reduced for eligible patients to and from treatment and hospital

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ACT	Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS)	<a href="#">Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS)</a>	Referred by a clinician from the ACT or Queanbeyan for Specialist treatment not available in the ACT	Full economy rail or coach. Full cost of air for approved patient and carer. Can't readily find km cost for private vehicle. Local transport is not reimbursed eg taxi, bus, tolls, parking	\$44 per night each for patient and approved escort. Commercial accommodation only.	Usually within 2-3 weeks
SA	Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS)	<a href="#">Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS)</a>	More than 100 kms from nearest med specialist	Air only approved if it is more economical than private car or public transport. \$0.16 per km for private car.	Up to \$40 per night per patient. Escort restricted but granted to children U/17	30 days.
VIC	Peter MacCullum	<a href="#">Travel &amp; Accommodation</a>	Depending on eligibility	Subsidy provided	Sites of accomodation available on link	Subsidised by Vic
	Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS)	<a href="#">Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS)</a>	100 kilometres or more one way or an average of 500 kilometres a week, or interstate for treatment not available within Victoria	Excludes the first \$100 each treatment year for travel and accommodation (Except with Concession or Health Care Card). Public transport: full economy-class fare. Air if greater than 350 kilometres. Private car \$0.21 per km. Taxi to or from the nearest public transport	Excludes the first \$100 each treatment year for travel and accommodation (Except with Concession or Health Care Card). \$45.00 per night each for patient and approved escort in commercial accommodation	6 - 8 weeks.
TAS	PTAS Patient Travel Assistance Scheme	<a href="#">Travel support (PTAS)</a>	More than 75 km one-way for appropriate specialist medical service or lymphodema treatment, or 50 km one-way for dialysis or oncology. Assistance for interstate referrals if the treatment is not available in Tas	Intra-state: Full economy bus travel or private car at \$0.21 /km. Interstate: best air or ferry fare that is clinically appropriate	\$66 (intrastate) and \$87 (interstate) per person/night. Must pay first 2 nights accommodation unless holding a Pensioner Concession card. Concession and Health Care Card holders pay \$16.50* towards the cost of the return journey. Should a patient's contributions exceed \$132* in a financial year, further contributions for that year will be waived	28 days.
NT	Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS)	<a href="#">Patient Assistance Travel Scheme</a>	More than 200km away from the nearest approved specialist, or more than 400km in one week for renal or oncology treatment. (Note: Some interstate referrals covered also)	Full cover return air and bus fares at cheapest rate, Private car: \$0. 20 cents per km. ground transport costs such as for taxis and buses: a maximum of \$50 each trip.	Accommodation costs of up to \$60 / night commercial or \$20 privately.	Not stated on website. "Your reimbursement will be deposited into your nominated bank account through EFT"
WA	Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)	<a href="#">Assistance with travel costs to receive medical care</a>	More than 100 km to the nearest eligible medical specialist services or more than 70km to access specialist medical treatment for cancer or dialysis.	Private vehicle: 16c per km. Train or bus: economy fare. Air transport (Pilbara or Kimberley residents): For long distances (see website) or if your doctor certifies air travel is essential for clinical reasons – economy airfare.	Commercial \$60 per night or \$75 combined with an approved escort. Private accommodation - \$20 per night each privately.	Up to ten days to process for payment