

Appendix A: Comparison of patient transport assistance schemes across Australia

Eligibility criteria	Patient contribution	Clinical trials	Private vehicle	Public transport	Air travel	Taxi travel	Parking	Accommodation
Victoria								
Vic. resident receiving medical treatment under designated Medicare codes. Need to travel > 100 kms one way or on average 500 kms per week for minimum of five consecutive weeks .	\$100 every 12 months , except for pensioners and Health Care Card Holders.	No.	17 cents p/km.	Full reimbursement.	If travelling 350 km +, economy fare on commercial flight only.	To nearest public transport only.	No.	Commercial \$35 (+GST) p/n each for commercial accommodation for patient plus approved escort Private No subsidy.
Queensland								
Qld resident accessing essential specialist medical service unavailable within 50 kms of nearest public hospital, which is closest service of its type.	First four nights of accommodation per financial year , unless qualify for reduction (Health Care, Seniors Health and Concession Card holders; pensioners; dependent children under 17 years.)	No.	30 cents p/km.	Full reimbursement at lowest rate.	Full reimbursement at lowest rate.	Potentially, limited circumstance.	No.	Commercial \$60 p/n each for patient and approved carer Private \$10 p/n.

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New South Wales IPTASS								
NSW or Lord Howe Island residents, who need to travel > 100 kms one way or > 200 kms in one week , for specialist treatment claimable under Medicare.	Mandatory personal contribution of \$40 per claim up to \$1,000 threshold p.a. except for pensioners and Health Care Card Holders.	No.	19 cents p/km.	Full reimbursement, economy rates (- GST).	Prior approval sought by medical practitioner/ specialist, that there is a 'valid medical reason' for air travel.	1 visit: \$20 Short term (2 – 7 day) visit: \$40 Medium term (8 – 14 day) visit: \$80 Long term (15 + day) visit: \$160.	No.	Single room \$43 p/n each if approved carer in separate room Double room \$60 p/n (patient and approved carer in same room) Private \$20 p/n.
Western Australia PATS								
Permanent residents of WA Country Health Service regions who need to travel > 100 km to nearest eligible specialist services (including Telehealth enabled service) People who need to travel between 70 – 100 kms for cancer or dialysis treatment may be eligible for limited assistance.	None.	No.	16 cents p/km 25 cents p/km when travelling in minibus or similar group vehicle, owned by community or org (payment to org.).	Full reimbursement of economy or discounted fare (coach or rail).	Economy fare – cheapest on the day.	Limited circumstance.	No.	Commercial Patient or escort: \$60 p/n Patient and escort: \$75 p/n Private Patient: \$20 Patient & Escort: \$40 p/n Hospital Patient: \$34.50 p/n Escort: \$69 p/n Escorts are entitled to accommodation assistance or return journey home and back, whichever is cheapest, except for escorts for cancer patients, who are entitled to accomm. assistance for length of patient's treatment.

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South Australia Pats – UNDER REVIEW								
Permanent citizens/residents residing in SA who live > 100 km from nearest treating specialist, for Medicare claimable treatment, on local doctor's referral.	\$30 patient contribution for each return journey (unless hardship application accepted).	No.	16 cents p/km.	Reimbursement of economy or discounted fare minus the \$30 patient contribution.	Pre-approval required, and deemed essential by local doctor.	Special arrangement.	No.	Commercial \$30 + GST p/n each for patient and approved escort.
ACT IPTAS								
Permanent residents of WA Country Health Service regions who need to travel > 100 km to nearest eligible specialist services (including Telehealth enabled service) People who need to travel between 70 – 100 kms for cancer or dialysis treatment may be eligible for limited assistance.	None.	No.	Rebate up to amount below: Syd \$101.48 Melb \$225.50 Adel \$420.25 Bris \$462.28 Escorts required to remain with patient interstate for extended periods may be eligible for assistance to attend to pers./household needs. Max. 2 return journeys (road/rail) per month, assessed on an individual basis.	Return economy fare Coach Syd \$75.85 Melb \$135.30 Adel \$244.98 Bris \$324.93 Rail Syd \$103.53 Melb \$194.75 Adel \$217.30 Bris \$217.30	Pre-approval required, on certification by referring medical practitioner or treating specialist that the patient has a specific medical condition that requires them to travel by air.	No.	No.	Commercial \$36.90 p/n each patient and/or escort. Private \$11.28 p/n each patient and/or escort.

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Northern Territory PATS								
<p>Permanent NT residents who need to travel > 200 kms one way for specialist services or more than 400 kms cumulatively in one week.</p> <p>Wherever possible, the PATS Patient Travel Clerks make all travel and accommodation bookings for patients and approved escorts.</p>	No.	No.	20 cents p/km.	<p>Full reimbursement of lowest available discount fare.</p> <p>Reimbursement of up to \$50 for ground travel at destination.</p>	Full reimbursement of lowest available discount fare.	Reimbursement of up to \$50 for ground travel at destination.	No.	<p>Commercial \$60 p/n for patients and approved escorts</p> <p>Private \$20 p/n</p> <p>Escorts can be automatically approved for patients travelling interstate for surgery or intensive treatment such as radiation therapies, non-surgical cancer treatments, cardiology or neurosurgery.</p>
Tasmania								
<p>Tasmanian residents who need to travel: - -</p> <p>more than 50 km (one way) to the nearest oncology or dialysis treatment centre;</p> <p>or more than 75 km (one way) to the nearest appropriate specialist medical service or for lymphoedema treatment.</p>	<p>Health Care or Pensioner Concession card-holders pay \$15 towards each return journey to a max. of \$120 p.a.</p> <p>Non-cardholders pay \$75 towards each return journey to a max. of \$300 p.a.</p>		19 cents p/km.	<p>Return economy bus tickets.</p> <p>King and Furneaux Islands residents can claim return economy airfare (Island Resident rates), plus most economical, appropriate transport from airport to and from medical facility.</p>	King and Furneaux Islands residents can claim return economy airfare (Island Resident rates), plus most economical, appropriate transport from airport to and from medical facility.	King and Furneaux Islands residents can claim return economy airfare (Island Resident rates), plus most economical, appropriate transport from airport to and from medical facility.	No.	<p>Intrastate \$46 each p/n for patient and carer (when subsidised accommodation is not available or appropriate at Tas. medical facilities).</p> <p>Non-cardholders and their escorts must pay first two nights' accommodation for each stay.</p> <p>Interstate \$64 each p/n for patient and carer.</p>