

The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) is funded by the State Government through the Department of Health and is administered by the WA Country Health Service (WACHS).

PATS provides a subsidy for travel and accommodation to assist permanent country residents (and where eligible, their escorts) who meet the required criteria to access the nearest eligible medical specialist service (including a TeleHealth enabled service).

To find out how to access this service, call your Cancer Council WA Support Coordinator or call Cancer Council 13 11 20.

You are eligible for PATS assistance if you are:

- a permanent country resident and live in a WA country health service region
- travelling more than 100km (each way) specifically to access the nearest eligible medical specialist service

You may be eligible for PATS assistance if you are:

- an applicant residing within the town boundaries of Northam and York

You may be eligible for limited PATS assistance if you are:

- an applicant who needs to travel between 70km and 100km to access the nearest eligible medical treatment for cancer or dialysis

You are NOT eligible for PATS assistance if you are:

- participating in a clinical trial
- eligible to claim travel or an accommodation subsidy under another scheme – e.g. DVA, Workers Compensation or Motor Vehicle Personal Injury (MPVI)
- a 'fly-in-fly-out' contractor whose permanent residence is not in country Western Australia
- a visitor to country WA
- accessing Allied Health Services such as speech pathology, physiotherapy, podiatry, occupational therapy, audiology, social work, dietetics or nursing services

An applicant is eligible for an escort where:

- the applicant being escorted is a dependent child
- Centrelink has determined that the applicant is under the care of a principal carer
- home dialysis patients are receiving training (a carer is required to attend as a condition of the medical specialist treatment)
- the escort is legally required to make decisions on behalf of the applicant and/or;
- the referring practitioner, prior to departure, specifies on the PATS application form, the reason why an escort's presence is essential, based upon their assessment that the applicant would be unable to manage their treatment alone, particularly if the applicant is undergoing cancer treatment, is disabled or frail.



Do I have to pay anything?

The PATS provides a subsidy towards the costs of travel and accommodation where eligible. The scheme is not intended to meet the full costs of travel and accommodation, or to provide assistance with other costs associated with access to eligible specialist appointments.

What does PATS reimburse?

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| Public transport | Reimbursement of economy discounted fare (coach or rail) |
| Private vehicle use | 16c per km – only one claim per vehicle |
| Travel group vehicle | 25c per km – when travelling in a minibus or similar group transport vehicle, owned by a community or organisation |
| Private accommodation Patient Patient and eligible escort | \$20.00 per night \$40.00 per night |
| Commercial Accommodation Patient Patient and eligible escort | \$60.00 per night \$75.00 per night |
| Hospital accommodation Patient Patient and eligible escort | \$34.50 per night \$69.00 per night |
| Air travel | Economy fare – cheapest on the day |

Cancer treatment means 'specialist medical treatment' which involves one or a combination of the following:

- surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy and/or palliative intervention

Interstate Treatment

Interstate travel for highly specialised medical care not available in Western Australia is covered by the Interstate Patient Transfer Scheme (IPTS). Information relating the IPTS should be sought from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health on **(08) 9222 2474** or via email at **ipts@health.wa.gov.au**

Where country residents are accessing the IPTS, their travel for the intrastate component of their journey (e.g. country to Perth) is covered by the IPTS and not by PATS.

PATS Application Form

The medical practitioner who refers a patient to a specialist service completes Section A of the PATS application form. The patient completes Section B and the PATS Office completes Section C. Application forms are generally available from GPs. Alternatively, forms are available online at **www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au**



Where to get help and information?

For more information, contact your regional PATS office:

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| Goldfields Esperance Kalgoorlie | (08) 9071 0801 (08) 9080 5681 |
| Great Southern Albany Denmark Gnowangerup Katanning Kojonup Mt Barker | 1800 728 747 |
| Kimberley | (08) 9194 2236 |
| Midwest Carnarvon Dongara Exmouth Geraldton | (08) 9956 2216 |
| Pilbara | 1300 653 231 |
| South West | 1800 823 131 |

Please note that this factsheet provides general information only. Further information is available from your local PATS office or via the WACHS website at www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au

