

Review of Patient Travel Assistance Scheme

Public Consultation Questions

The Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS) - 'the Scheme' provides travel and/or accommodation assistance for eligible Tasmanians who are required to travel long distances to access specialist medical services and face substantial travel-related out-of-pocket costs as a result.

PTAS is funded by the Tasmanian Government and governed by the Tasmanian Department of Health. It has been a number of years since PTAS has been substantially reviewed. The Department of Health is currently reviewing PTAS to identify opportunities to ensure the Scheme is clearly defined and targeted towards those who most need it, leading to enhanced client satisfaction.

The Department of Health is seeking public submissions to inform the PTAS review.

We are interested in your views on the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme and seek to learn from the experiences of those who have accessed the scheme for travel and accommodation assistance.

The purpose of the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme is to provide assistance to support equal access to specialist medical services. Funding for the Scheme is limited and as such, funds are targeted towards Tasmanians who are disadvantaged by distance and have the greatest need for financial assistance to subsidise travel-related costs.

The review will also be considering how the Scheme is administered overall, including areas such as the application process, eligibility rules and payment processes.

Question 1: What is your experience of PTAS?

Question 2: How effectively did the Scheme support your clinical care travel needs?

Question 3: How well do you think the Scheme supports those who need it most?

Question 4: In what ways could the Scheme be delivered differently to ensure support is provided to those with most need?

Question 5: What opportunities exist to improve the Scheme?

Question 6: What improvements would you like to see addressed first?

Written submissions addressing the review questions can be submitted via email to PTASReview@ths.tas.gov.au or posted to PTAS Review, Business Improvement and Reform, CH Smith Centre, Level 1, 16-24 Charles Street, Launceston, Tasmania 7250.

If you require assistance with your submission, please contact the Project Support Officer on 03 6777 4129.

Submissions will be accepted until 7 November 2021.

Further information about PTAS is available at <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/hospital/ptas>