

They will complete the Section A of the PTAS application form for you. The PTAS form will need to be delivered to your local PTAS office if pre-booked travel is required. Alternatively, the Section A is to be provided to your local PTAS office upon completion of your Specialist Medical appointment with relevant receipts and your signed Section B, Section C & copy of your Pension/ Health care card if applicable.

It is important to note that the lodgement of an application form does not in itself represent approval.

What are my responsibilities in applying for PTAS?

It is your responsibility to:

- submit the PTAS application form to your local PTAS Office as soon as the application form is completed by your referring Tasmanian Medical Specialist or Rural GP (as defined);
- provide up-to-date contact details and bank account details on your PTAS Section B each time a claim is submitted, please note PTAS staff are unable to transcribe your bank details on your behalf;
- provide a copy of your current Centrelink Health Care / Pension Card (if applicable) with each claim;
- ensure Section C of the PTAS application form is completed by the nominated Specialist and submitted to your local PTAS Office within 4 months of travel;
- attend all medical appointments as arranged; and
- give adequate notice if unable to travel.

Where can I find out more about PTAS?

To discuss PTAS eligibility requirements or benefits, please call your nearest PTAS Coordinator.

Information may also be obtained from:

- Department of Health and Human Services www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ptas
- Service Tasmania
- Primary Health Facilities.

Patient Travel Assistance Scheme Offices

North West Regional Hospital
C/ Parkside Building, Strahan Street, Burnie 7320
Phone: (03) 6477 7734
Email: nw.ptas@ths.tas.gov.au

Launceston General Hospital
Charles Street, Launceston 7250
Phone: (03) 6777 6249
Email: lgh.patient.travel@ths.tas.gov.au

Royal Hobart Hospital
C/ Ground Floor, Telstra Building
70 Collins Street, Hobart 7000
Phone: (03) 6166 8225
Email: ptasrhh@ths.tas.gov.au

Other PTAS Coordinators:

Devonport Community and Health Services Centre
23 Steele Street, Devonport 7310
Phone: (03) 6478 6177

West Coast District Hospital
60–64 Orr Street, Queenstown 7467
Phone: (03) 6495 1550

Rosebery Community Health Centre
Murchison Highway, Rosebery 7470
Phone: (03) 6495 1570

Smithton District Hospital
74 Brittons Road Smithton 7330
Phone: (03) 6478 9520

King Island Hospital and Health Centre
31 Edward Street, Currie, King Island 7256
Phone: (03) 6462 9900

THS welcomes feedback from patients and visitors to help us better understand your needs and improve care. Contact the Consumer Liaison Service on (03) 1800 811 911.



Date: January 2021

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Pamphlet Name: PTAS - Travelling in Tasmania

Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS)

Travelling in Tasmania

Financial assistance for patients travelling to Specialist Medical services

Consumer Information Brochure

TASMANIAN
HEALTH
SERVICE

Tasmanian
Government

What is the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme?

The Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS) provides financial assistance with travel and/or accommodation costs for Tasmanian residents to access a range of Specialist Medical services, where these services are not available locally.

This is an assistance scheme only and you are expected to make a patient contribution.

Am I eligible?

You will be eligible for financial assistance under PTAS if you:

- are a Tasmanian permanent resident and on the Tasmanian Electoral Role;
- are being referred to:
 - the nearest oncology/dialysis treatment centre more than 50 km (one-way) from your home; or
 - the nearest Specialist Medical service/lymphoedema treatment more than 75 km (one-way) from your home;
- are travelling by the most economical mode of transport;
- have a PTAS application form signed by your Tasmanian referring Medical Specialist, Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon or Rural GP (applicable for King Island or Furneaux Island patients only) referring you to the nearest Medical Specialist;
- receive treatment claimable under Medicare from a recognised medical specialist; and
- are not entitled to financial assistance through another scheme e.g. Private Health Insurance, Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB), Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Workers Compensation, NDIS or other compensable schemes.

Can I have someone to travel with me?

The Scheme also assists with the travel and accommodation costs of an escort accompanying you if you are under the age of 18 years.

If you are aged 18 years or over, an escort may be eligible for financial assistance if the escort is deemed necessary

for medical reasons to actively assist you during your travel or treatment.

What financial assistance is available?

Financial assistance is available towards approved air/sea and road travel and accommodation expenses. You will be required to contribute towards the cost of travel.

Please contact your local PTAS Coordinator to arrange your required travel.

Travel

Residents of King Island and the Furneaux Islands can claim the cost of a return economy airfare (Island Resident rates), plus the cost of the most economical, appropriate form of transport from the destination airport to and from the medical facility for a maximum of \$30.00 per round journey.

Accommodation

Subsidised accommodation is available at some Tasmanian medical facilities. When this is not available or not appropriate, PTAS may fund a maximum of \$66.00 inc GST per night for commercial accommodation for each approved person. All tax invoices provided must state an Australian Business Name and Number (ABN) to be eligible for reimbursement, bookings undertaken through third party agents will not be eligible for PTAS assistance if unable to provide required detail. Private accommodation, parking or any incidental costs (e.g. phone calls or meals) are not eligible for the subsidy.

Note:

You may be requested to repay the costs associated with travel if you:

- fail to use the scheduled flight/travel;
- fail to attend medical appointments without adequate justification; or
- fail to return the completed Section B & C of the application form.
- incur additional costs associated with your accommodation booking such as; cleaning expenses, repairs for damage caused or items misplaced at the end of your stay.

What contribution do I make?

Health Care or Pensioner Concession cardholders are required to contribute \$16.50 towards the cost of each return journey. The maximum contribution for cardholders in any one financial year is \$132.

Non-Concession cardholders are required to contribute \$82.50 towards the cost of each return journey. The maximum contribution for Non-Concession cardholders in any one financial year is \$330.

If these limits are reached, no further contributions will be required for that financial year.

You and any approved escort are required to meet the additional costs incurred if you choose a more expensive form of transport than that approved (e.g. travel by air when road transport is assessed as appropriate).

Accommodation

You and your escort (when requested and approved) are required to meet the cost where the accommodation is over \$66.00 inc GST per night per approved person.

Non-cardholders and their escort (when requested and approved) are required to pay the first two nights' accommodation costs for each stay.

What if I can't afford to pay for the travel and/or accommodation?

In this situation, please contact your local PTAS Coordinator to discuss an alternative arrangement.

How do I apply for assistance?

Your referring Tasmanian Medical Specialist or Rural GP (applicable for King Island or Furneaux Island patients only) will provide you with the PTAS application form when you are referred to a specialist medical service not available to you locally.

(continued overleaf)