

Patient Travel Assistance Scheme Fact Sheet

The Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS) was set up to provide financial assistance to Tasmanian residents needing to travel long distances to access specialist medical services. The guidelines and criteria for accessing PTAS include:

- Patients need to be referred to the nearest facility i.e. North West Regional Hospital or Mersey Community Hospital **in the first instance** if a specialty service is available.
- If a patient is referred to a specialist outside the region e.g. LGH or RHH, when there is an appropriate specialist in the NWAHS, the patient **will not be** eligible for any travel or accommodation assistance.
- If a patient is referred to a specialist outside the state, when there is an appropriate specialist in Tasmania, the patient **will not be** eligible for any travel or accommodation assistance.
- PTAS is available for patients who need to travel more than 75 kilometres one-way by the shortest practical route (50 kilometres for dialysis or oncology treatment). They must also provide proof of registration on the State electoral roll to be eligible for assistance.
- Reimbursement for patient travel will not be processed unless **all** criteria are met, so please make sure your patients meet the above criteria when completing their PTAS Applications for Assistance.
- For up-to-date information about Consultants and Specialists practicing within NWAHS – please refer to internet site www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/nwabs Select 'Information for GPs' and click on 'Outpatient and Specialist List'.
- If you have questions about the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme please contact GP Liaison Officer Keith McArthur,
keith.mcarthur@dhhs.tas.gov.au