

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;
- travel and attend all medical appointments as arranged;
- 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](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ptas)
- Service Tasmania
- Primary Health Facilities.

### Where can my rural GP refer me to?

Rural GPs can only refer patients to specialist medical services within Tasmania.

The exception is the King Island Rural GPs (District Medical Officers) who may refer patients to Interstate Medical Specialists on the basis of clinical grounds.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Review Date: January 2023

Pamphlet Name: PTAS - Travelling Outside Tasmania

## Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (PTAS)

# Travelling Outside Tasmania

Financial assistance for patients travelling to Specialist Medical services

Consumer Information Brochure

TASMANIAN  
HEALTH  
SERVICE



## 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.

### **PTAS is required to make all travel arrangements for Patients/Carers to be eligible under this scheme.**

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 Specialist Medical service not available in Tasmania;
- are not travelling by ambulance;
- 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. Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB), Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Workers Compensation, Private Health Insurance 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 necessary to actively assist you during your travel or treatment if the escort is deemed necessary for medical reasons.

## 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.

Your local PTAS Coordinator will assist you by making all air/ ferry ticket and /or accommodation bookings.

If you live more than 75km from the airport/ferry terminal you can claim assistance for costs incurred for travel between home and the departure point. Your air/ferry ticket will be paid at no more than economy class. You may also claim your travel by the most economical transport option that is appropriate, between the airport/ferry terminal to the specialist medical facility and return.

To enable Interstate taxi reimbursement please ensure your receipts state Airport as the “Pick Up” or “Drop Off” destination to enable successful reimbursement to a maximum of \$110.00 per return journey.

You and your escort (if requested and approved) are required to meet the additional costs incurred if you choose a more expensive form of transport than those approved within the PTAS Protocol.

### **Accommodation**

When subsidised accommodation is not available at the treating medical facility or deemed not appropriate, PTAS may fund a maximum of \$87.00 inc GST per night for *commercial accommodation* for each approved person. All tax invoices provided for reimbursement must state an Australian Business Name and Number (ABN) to be eligible, 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.

Please ensure you check your ticket upon receipt for accuracy and baggage restrictions and limits to ensure you are not penalised at the airport terminal with excess fees and charges.

### **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 \$132.00

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 \$330.00

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

### **Accommodation**

You and your escort (when requested and approved) are required to meet the cost where the commercial accommodation is over \$87.00 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.

They will complete the Section A of the PTAS application form at this time and give it to you to deliver to your local PTAS Coordinator for pre-booking of travel.