

## How does the scheme work and how do I apply?

The PTSS is administered through public hospitals across Queensland that accept, assess and approve PTSS applications and reimburse PTSS subsidies.

To apply, you must complete the PTSS application form (see the section *Further information* to obtain the form) and lodge it to your local public hospital. You can lodge the form in person or via mail, email or fax, whichever is more convenient for you.

**Please keep copies of all forms and paperwork you submit.**

Your application will be assessed by your local public hospital and you will be notified of the outcome.

Your local public hospital may either reimburse your subsidies after you have travelled or book your travel and accommodation for you. Please contact the PTSS office at your local public hospital to discuss your options.

### Further information

#### General information:

- 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
- PTSS staff at your local public hospital
- <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/travel/subsidies/>

# PTSS

## Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme

### A guide for patients and their approved escorts

November 2015

## What is the purpose of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme?

The Queensland Government supports patients who need to travel, particularly rural and remote patients, to access specialist medical services through the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS). The scheme provides financial assistance to eligible patients (and approved escorts) who are required to travel more than 50 kilometres from their local public hospital to access specialist medical services.

## What financial assistance is available?

Assistance may be provided towards your travel and accommodation costs. Travel subsidies will be provided for the most clinically appropriate and cost-effective mode of transport (air, rail or bus travel or travel by private motor vehicle).

Generally, the **cheapest form of public transport** will be subsidised *unless you are approved for a more expensive mode of transport*.

You may also be eligible for subsidies for an approved escort (i.e. family member or friend) to travel with you.

PTSS subsidies paid directly to patients and escorts are GST exclusive.

Travel subsidies	
Commercial— Air, bus or rail	Fully paid at lowest available discount fare
Private vehicle	\$0.30 per kilometre

  

Accommodation subsidies	
Commercial	Up to \$60 per person per night
Private (family or friends)	\$10 per person per night

Patients and approved escorts are required to pay the *first four nights of accommodation per financial year*. Patients who hold a nominated concession card or patients under 17 years of age are exempt from this requirement and are eligible to receive the accommodation subsidy from the first night. This exemption does not include the patients approved escort.

It is important to note that:

- PTSS only provides a subsidy and does not cover all costs such as meals, taxi fare to the airport etc
- you are responsible for paying any costs that the subsidy amount does not cover
- if you choose a more expensive mode of transport than what is approved, you must pay the additional costs
- accommodation and escorts subsidies will only be provided for the minimum period required for your treatment to be effective.

## Am I eligible?

To be eligible for PTSS, you must be:

- A Queensland resident or a patient with no fixed address, residing in Queensland
- Eligible for Medicare
- Accessing a specialist medical service that is:
  - recommended as medically necessary by a medical practitioner
  - listed as an essential specialist medical service (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/services/travel/subsidies/>);
  - not available within 50 kilometres of your nearest public hospital
  - the closest service of its type.

Note: the PTSS is for Queensland residents only—if you are a resident of another state or territory, you will need to apply through your local public hospital for assistance.

Interstate travel assistance is provided to Queensland residents only if the required specialist service is not available in Queensland.