**Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS)** is a transport and accommodation subsidy scheme that helps people cover some of the costs of visits to specialist medical treatment not available in their local area. IPTAS is provided by ACT Government Health Directorate as part of their obligation to provide health care services for everyone in ACT.

You are eligible for IPTAS if you are:
- an Australian citizen and a permanent resident of the ACT
- a Medicare ineligible asylum seeker
- a Medicare card holder or an eligible candidate
- seeking travel assistance that is ‘essential’
- referred by a recognised, accredited medical practitioner from the ACT or Queanbeyan for specialist treatment that is not available in the ACT – the referral must be current and is required every 12 months for regular travellers

You are not eligible for IPTAS if you:
- have had your costs covered by another agency (e.g. DVA, employer schemes, workers compensation, other insurance claim)
- travel by ambulance, air ambulance, other emergency transport or inter-facility transfer
- are seeking general medical treatment given by general practitioners and health professionals, such as psychologists, physiotherapists and speech pathologists
- are seeking a second opinion for a choice of specialist and use community transport to get to treatment
- are participating in a clinical trial.

Do I have to pay anything?
Yes. IPTAS will not fully cover your costs. Patients must contribute to the costs of general medical treatment, their own meals, taxi fares, public transport, tolls or parking fees, hospital-related costs, including private hospital inpatient accommodation costs.

Private health insurance
If you have private health insurance, you must claim the maximum benefit available before under your cover before applying for IPTAS.

What does IPTAS cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of travel/ accommodation</th>
<th>Reimbursement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>public transport</td>
<td>maximum rebate claimable (coach): Sydney, $79.88; Melbourne, $142.49; Adelaide, $258.01; Brisbane, $342.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private motor vehicle use</td>
<td>maximum rebate claimable (rail): Sydney, $109.04; Melbourne, $205.11; Adelaide, $228.85; Brisbane, $228.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxi</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air travel</td>
<td>only considered with prior approval from IPTAS office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accommodation (per night/per room)</td>
<td>$38.86 (commercial accommodation); $11.88 (private accommodation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community transport</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IPTAS is not means tested.
IPTAS Application Form
The application form is divided into three sections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Completed by</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>before treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>referring medical practitioner</td>
<td>when you are referred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>you and treating specialist/registrar</td>
<td>when you arrive at your destination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember to take your IPTAS form with you whenever you have an appointment and ask your health professional to fill it in.

Accommodation “bulk billing”
If you will be staying away from home for some time and you stay in a hospital-allied accommodation facility, the facility may be able to “bulk bill” IPTAS for the cost of your stay.

You will need to pay for your first two nights accommodation upfront. Financial assistance for accommodation costs can still be claimed after the first two nights but will depend on IPTAS’s assessment of your individual circumstances.

You will generally not be eligible for bulk billing if your accommodation is for less than three days. The manager of the accommodation facility can help you apply to IPTAS for bulk billing approval. You will need to lodge your application form with IPTAS or a the Tuggeranong, Phillip, City or Belconnen health centres within six months of the date of travel, otherwise the accommodation lodge will not get paid.

Where to get help and information
- IPTAS
  www.health.act.gov.au (search for IPTAS)
- Contact the social workers at your local or destination treatment centre

This fact sheet provides general information, which may be relevant to ACT only, and is not a substitute for legal advice. You should talk to a lawyer about your specific situation.

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Cancer Council Helpline 13 11 20 Telephone 02 6257 9999 Facsimile 02 6257 5055
Email reception@actcancer.org Website www.actcancer.org