

Help getting to treatment

This brochure provides tips for getting to and from treatment using your own car or using community transport.

Having treatment for cancer often means a lot of travel to and from a hospital or treatment facility, which may be far from home.

If you're having chemotherapy or radiotherapy, you may have to travel for treatment every day for a few weeks. There are several ways to save money on travel costs to and from your medical appointments.

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Patient transport claim

Every state and territory in Australia has a patient transport scheme for people who have to travel a long way for treatment not available near their home.

Who can get it? The rules are different in each state and territory, but usually you must live more than 50km from your local hospital.

How do I get it? You and your doctor will need to fill in the form available from your state or territory government health department.

How much does it cost? This service does not fully cover all costs. You will need to pay the rest.

Parking

The cost of hospital parking varies. Some hospitals have free parking for people with cancer. Ask your hospital if you can get free or cheaper parking.



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COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Community transport may be offered in your local community through several government funded programs.

Who can get it? People not able to use public transport or who do not have access to private transport.

How do I get it? Call Cancer Council 13 11 20 to find out if your local office provides community transport.

How much does it cost? Most of the costs are covered, but you might need to pay some of the costs if you can.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) community transport

You may get picked up by a transport service or you may receive vouchers, such as for a taxi.

Who can get it? People aged 50 years or older.

How do I get it? Call the My Aged Care on 1800 200 422 or visit their website, myagedcare.gov.au. If you live in Western Australia, the process is different and you need to call My Aged Care to find out who to contact. You can also check with your local Aboriginal Health Service or medical professional.

How much does it cost? Check with My Aged Care.

Leukaemia Foundation Patient transport program

Transport is provided by trained volunteers to and from appointments.

Who can get it? People with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

How do I get it? Call 1800 620 420 to make a booking.

How much does it cost? It's free.

Some hospitals have an Aboriginal hospital liaison officer or Aboriginal Health Nurse. They:

- offer cultural support
- provide information about hospital services
- assist with referrals to other organisations
- arrange transport and/or accommodation from the country and interstate.

For more information

- Call Cancer Council 13 11 20
- Call your nearest hospital
- Call your local council
- Visit cancerCouncil.com.au
- Visit menzies.edu.au/cancer

This information has been adapted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by Menzies School of Health Research in consultation with a Clinical Advisory Group and an Indigenous Consultation group. Production by Cancer Council.