

Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme - Repatriation of deceased patients Eligibility Guide

From 1 July 2023, The Queensland Government will fund costs associated to the repatriation of deceased eligible Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme (PTSS) patients.

The [repatriation of deceased patients policy](#) guides and supports Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) with decision-making in the repatriation of eligible patients, whilst on PTSS related travel, to their Queensland place of residence or their Queensland Traditional Homelands or their Queensland First Nations Country. The policy works with and accompanies the PTSS guideline. A series of [frequently asked questions](#) have been developed to support HHSs in administering this policy. Decisions made by HHSs on the repatriation of deceased PTSS patients are done so in the best interest of the deceased patient and their family needs, as relevant for each Queensland community.

PTSS eligibility - Patients must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be eligible for Medicare
- Be a permanent Queensland resident or person of no fixed address, or a student living at a Queensland boarding school or university campus
- Required to travel more than 50 kilometres (one way) (from the public hospital or public health facility closest to their permanent address) to attend the nearest eligible specialist health service
- Have an eligible referral for an approved specialty
- Be unable to use Telehealth

Repatriation eligibility - The repatriation payment:

- Supports the repatriation of deceased eligible PTSS patients, whilst on PTSS related travel to the deceased eligible PTSS patient's Queensland place of residence or their Queensland Traditional Homelands or their Queensland First Nations Country
- Is available to all deceased eligible PTSS patients, is not restricted to First Nations patients and is not means tested
- Provides the full transportation costs for the deceased patient including body preparation and death registration (excluding GST if paid as reimbursement)
- Provides the full travel cost for an additional escort if the escort that originally travelled with the patient is unable to make the necessary arrangements to transport the deceased patient home (excluding GST and any fees if paid as reimbursement)
- Provides two nights accommodation for the escort (the first four night accommodation rule should be waived for accommodation provided under the repatriation policy)
- Covers travel costs for the escort, paid at the standard PTSS subsidy rates
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- Can be paid directly to the funeral director providing transportation, or to the family of the deceased patient (excluding GST if paid as reimbursement)