



Repatriation Transport Scheme

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme

Overview

This factsheet briefly describes how eligible veterans, war widows/widowers (entitled persons) can claim travelling expenses under the Repatriation Transport Scheme (RTS) relating to:

- visits to a health provider for medical treatment
- a disability claim
- an invalidity income support claim
- treatment under the *Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006*.

The Repatriation Transport Scheme is comprised of a number of elements including the reimbursement of:

- transport
- accommodation
- meals
- medically required attendants.

Who is eligible?

Holders of the Repatriation Health Card for All Conditions (gold card) eligible under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses for the treatment of all health conditions.

Holders of the Repatriation Health Card for Specific Conditions (white card) eligible under the VEA are entitled to assistance towards travelling expenses for the treatment of their DVA accepted disabilities.

Persons with eligibility under the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* or the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* are advised to contact the Department to discuss their entitlements as they may vary from those outlined below.

How the Repatriation Transport Scheme can assist you

DVA may assist with travelling expenses for you and, if applicable, your medically required attendant to attend a health provider for medical treatment within Australia.

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

The intention of the Scheme is to provide you with assistance with the cost of transport, meals and accommodation. The Scheme does not necessarily reimburse the entire cost incurred.

Travel Assistance

To receive the maximum allowable assistance with travelling expenses you will need to attend the closest practical health provider to your permanent or temporary residence, at the time of treatment.

If you are treated by a health provider who is more than 50 km from your residence and the health provider has not indicated on the 'Claim for Travelling Expenses' (D800) form that they are the closest practical health provider, DVA will reimburse you to a distance equal to the closest practical provider or 100 km whichever is the greater.

If the distance from your residence to the health provider is less than or equal to 50 km you will be reimbursed the distance that you travelled.

What does the Department pay for?

DVA may assist you with travelling expenses for use of:

- a private vehicle
- public or community transport
- vehicle ferries
- parking
- road tolls
- taxis or hire cars (where this is the most suitable and economical mode of transport)
- booked car services
- air travel (where this type of transport is necessary)
- travel with a medically required attendant
- ambulance travel
- accommodation and meals.

You will generally make your own transport arrangements. However, in certain circumstances transport (e.g. booked car) may be arranged for you by DVA. See *HSV03 Transport Modes available under the Repatriation Transport Scheme* for all transport types payable.

The following table outlines the current allowances payable under the RTS. These allowances are effective from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013. All allowances are increased on 1 July each year in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures.

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

<u>Type of allowance</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Allowance from 1 July 2012</u>	<u>Travel with a medically required attendant</u>
Private vehicle	Per kilometre	31.6 cents	x1
Public, community or air transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x2
Taxi transport	Actual fare	Actual fare	x1
Commercial accommodation non-capital city – single #	Per night	\$130.10	x2
Commercial accommodation capital city – single #	Per night	\$154.50	x2
Entitled person and medically required attendant sharing commercial accommodation – shared #	Per night	\$211.50	x1
Subsidised accommodation – single #	Per night	\$81.40	x2
Private accommodation – single #	Per night	\$40.60	x2
Meal allowance - more than 50 km but less than or equal to 200 km (each way) from your residence in less than a day	Per day	\$12.90	x2
Meal allowance – more than 200 km (each way) from your residence in less than a day	Per day	\$26.10	x2

All accommodation allowances include a daily meal allowance.

When is accommodation payable?

If you need to stay away from your residence for one or more nights while visiting a health provider, a combined accommodation and meal allowance may be payable.

An accommodation allowance may be payable because of the circumstances of your treatment, such as:

- travel is more than 250 km (each way) to attend a health provider
- travel is less than 250 km (each way) to attend a health provider however your medical condition prevents you from travelling back to your residence on the same day you had treatment. Examples include but are not restricted to:
 - your health provider requires that you remain close by for observation
 - you have had surgery and were unable to travel long distances
 - the appointment time was early in the morning or late in the afternoon
 - medication causes you to delay making the return trip.

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

You may also be eligible for a part-day meal allowance for travel back to your residence on the day immediately following the last night's stay, or for the day of travel to or from a hospital admission, depending on the distance travelled.

Part-day meal allowances

If your treatment at a health care facility requires you to travel:

- more than 50 km but less than or equal to 200 km from your residence in less than one day, a small meal allowance is payable
- more than 200 km from your residence in less than one day, a larger meal allowance is payable. Refer to the rates table for current allowances.

Medically required attendant

When can I have an attendant? - If you need assistance when travelling for treatment because of your medical condition, you may have a medically required attendant accompany you. The exception to this is when you travel by ambulance or when you are receiving treatment as an inpatient at hospital as the role of a medically required attendant is fulfilled by the professional medical staff.

Your medically required attendant is entitled to the same meal and accommodation allowances as you.

When your medically required attendant travels to pick you up to take you to treatment, DVA does not reimburse the distance from their residence to yours or vice versa.

Who can be a medically required attendant? – Any person who is competent to assist you while you are travelling to treatment. This includes being physically able to assist you when this is required. There is no age limit however the person will have to be mature enough to accept the responsibility of being a medically required attendant. In addition you must have a medical need for an attendant.

What travelling expenses are payable for a medically required attendant when I am admitted to hospital?

If you are admitted to hospital while accompanied by a medically required attendant, your attendant is entitled to:

- travelling expenses to return to their residence at the time of your admission; and
- travelling expenses to return to the hospital at the time you are discharged.

OR

If your medically required attendant does not return to their residence and chooses to stay in commercial, subsidised or private accommodation while you are in hospital, the lesser of:

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

- the amount of kilometre allowance that would have been payable had your medically required attendant returned to their residence when you were admitted to hospital, and then back to the hospital at the time you were discharged **or** the amount of commercial, subsidised or private accommodation allowance payable for the period you were hospitalised.

This payment is a contributing allowance to assist a medically required attendant who wishes to stay near you while you are hospitalised as an inpatient.

Please note that your medically required attendant is not eligible for any transport assistance to visit you while you are in hospital.

How are payments made?

In most instances, DVA will pay your travelling allowance directly into the same bank account that your pension or allowance is already paid into. An automated advice letter is also generated to provide you with payment details, including any amount paid for a medically required attendant. If a claim for payment has been rejected or amended for any reason the letter will explain the decision and how this decision can be reviewed.

Advance payments

To receive an advance payment of travelling expenses to approved treatment you would need to have an appointment confirmed by your health provider. In addition, a delegate of the Repatriation Commission would need to be satisfied that it is appropriate in all circumstances for you to be paid an advance.

When are receipts required?

Receipts *must* be retained by you for a period of four months for:

- public, community, taxi, hire car, vehicle ferry or air transport (when the total fare per item for the return trip is greater than or equal to \$30) for you and, if applicable, your medically required attendant
- parking expenses incurred (greater than or equal to \$30)
- commercial or subsidised accommodation for you and your medically required attendant.

Note: Please retain travel receipts for a period of four months from the date your claim has been finalised as you may be required to present them during this period. The \$30 or more receipt requirement is for the total return trip per item (i.e. public transport, taxi, hire car, parking etc). This includes both your costs and your medically required attendant's costs.

Receipts are *not* required for:

- travel by private vehicle
- public or community transport, taxi transport, hire car transport, vehicular ferry or parking expenses (when the total return trip amount is less than \$30 per item)

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

- private accommodation
- meals
- road tolls
- transport paid directly by DVA, such as booked car services.

How to make claims

Claims must be made on the '*Claim for Travelling Expenses*' (D800) form or through the new online claiming facility (see online claiming below) for travel under the VEA for:

- a visit to a health provider for medical treatment (including treatment undertaken in a hospital)
- a disability claim
- an income support claim; or
- treatment under the *Australian Participants in British Nuclear Tests (Treatment) Act 2006*.

The exceptions are for travelling expenses incurred in relation to:

- attendance at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) or a Veterans' Review Board (VRB) hearing
- obtaining any documentary medical evidence submitted to the VRB or the Specialist Medical Review Council.

In these cases you must complete an '*Application for Travelling Expenses in Connection with a Review*' (D803) form.

- the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA)
- the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRCA).

In these cases there is no specific form for claiming travel expenses. Claims should be submitted to DVA in writing and include supporting documentation such as receipts for medical treatment and travel. It is recommended that entitled persons discuss their SRCA/MRCA travel requirements with DVA staff before travelling to treatment.

Copies of the D800 form are available from any DVA office or Veterans' Access Network (VAN) office. An electronic version of the D800 or D803 form is also available at <http://www.dva.gov.au/dvaforms>.

To claim for reimbursement of travelling expenses you must:

- fill in a separate form for travel to *each* health provider or hospital admission/discharge;
- complete all the applicable purple '*Claimant*' sections of the form;
- ensure that your health provider completes the green '*Health Provider*' section and signs the form, for travel greater than 100 km return;
- state on the claim form which type of transport was used for each trip;
- ensure your medically required attendant's details are entered on the claim form, where appropriate;
- attach accommodation receipts;
- retain transport receipts (when the total fare per item for the return trip is greater than or equal to \$30) for a period of four months from the date your claim is finalised; and

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

- lodge your 'Claim for Travelling Expenses' (D800) form or 'Application for Travelling Expenses in Connection with a Review' (D803) form with DVA within **twelve months** of completion of travel.

Note: Late claims may only be reconsidered where the circumstances that prevented you from lodging your claim meet the exceptional circumstances guidelines as set down by the Repatriation Commission.

Online claiming

DVA has introduced a new range of online services called MyAccount. These online services include the ability to claim for your travelling expenses online. You are able to claim reimbursement for return trips of less than 100 km. Using the online service also enables up to 10 trips to be claimed at once. Further information about MyAccount online services is available at www.dva.gov.au.

Free or concessional transport

DVA will reimburse the actual cost of the fare paid by you. You will not be reimbursed when you receive free transport.

Note - this does not apply to use of a private vehicle where a kilometre rate is payable.

Related factsheets

Other factsheets related to this topic include:

<i>HSV03</i>	<i>Transport Modes available under the Repatriation Transport Scheme</i>
<i>HSV129</i>	<i>Before you travel within Australia</i>
<i>HSV120</i>	<i>Ambulance Services</i>
<i>HIP80</i>	<i>Transport Information for Health Providers</i>
<i>HSV60</i>	<i>Repatriation Health Card - For All Conditions (Gold)</i>
<i>HSV61</i>	<i>Repatriation Health Card - For Specific Conditions (White)</i>
<i>MRC46</i>	<i>Medical Treatment (SRCA and MRCA)</i>

Disclaimer

The information contained in this factsheet is general in nature and does not take into account individual circumstances. You should not make important decisions, such as those that affect your financial or lifestyle position, e.g. retirement, on the basis of information contained in this factsheet. Where you are required to lodge a written claim for a benefit, you must take full responsibility for your decisions prior to the written claim being determined.

You should seek confirmation in writing of any oral advice you receive from DVA relating to complex or important matters.

Overview of the Repatriation Transport Scheme, *continued*

More information

All DVA factsheets are available on request from DVA offices, and on the DVA website at www.dva.gov.au.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers. Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

You can send an email to DVA at: generalenquiries@dva.gov.au

You can get more help from any DVA office.