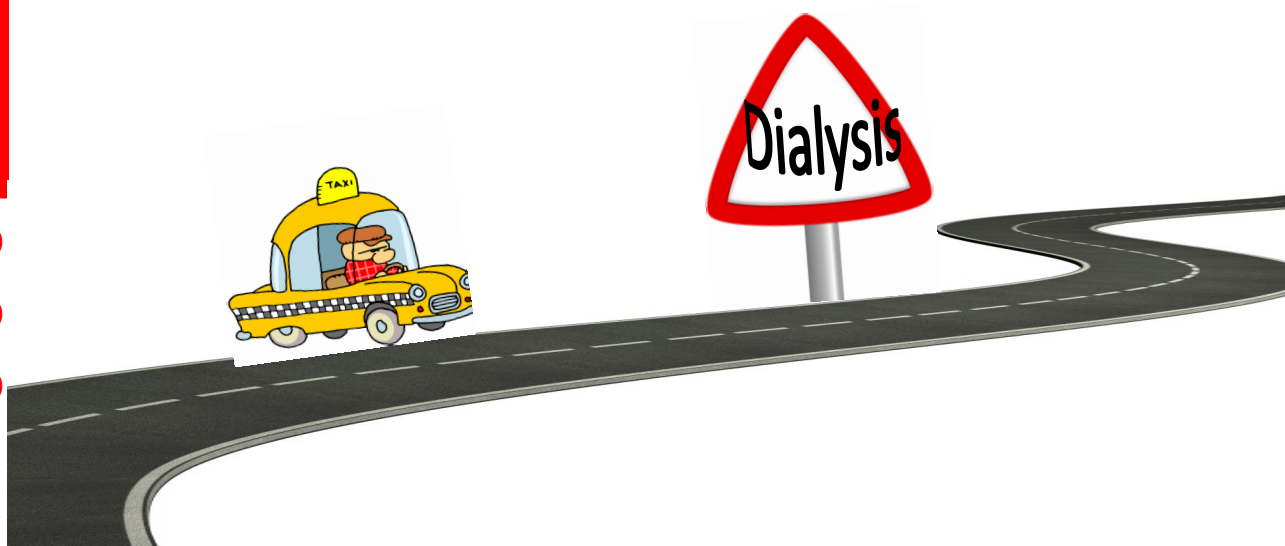


# Transport Options for Dialysis ACT



**Independent Travel**

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**Assisted Travel**

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# Welcome

This package has been developed to provide information about how you can travel to your regular dialysis appointments, or home dialysis training and clinics.

Going to dialysis treatments three times a week requires commitment, and for many people this may mean using different transport options throughout the week. Remember if travel is overwhelming Home Dialysis could be a better option for you.

Travel options start with driving yourself to dialysis which for many may require the help of friends or family members. Other options are using taxis, community transport, public transport, and using country travel assistance programmes. For those who cannot travel by routine transport ambulance may be an option.

Every dialysis unit will be able to let you know if they have their own special transport such as their own dialysis bus or cars, but unfortunately this is usually restricted to those who have no other options.

Please note that the information provided in **this fact sheet is correct as of November 2012**. KHA do not accept any responsibility if information has changed. If further subsidies are determined or alter please notify KHA and all efforts will be made to update the information as appropriate. ®Registered trademark, Kidney Health Australia, ABN 37 008 464 426. 100 York Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3205. All rights reserved. HI/8686233/Aug-2011

## Driving to Dialysis

When driving the main consideration is parking which is needed for up to 6 hours. Many dialysis units offer free parking, however, some may not, so check with your unit for more information regarding where to park and the costs involved.

In the early stages of treatment it is recommended that you do not drive yourself home. As you get used to dialysis you may begin to drive yourself to and from treatment.



## Public Transport

Canberra Bus service—ACTION provides transport around Canberra and the rest of ACT. Information about this service, as well as a journey planner which enables you to work out your trip can be found at [www.action.act.gov.au/](http://www.action.act.gov.au/)

Timetables and route information can also be found on this site. Or call 13 17 10 for more information

Timetables can also be collected from information counters at bus interchange stations located in Belconnen, Civic, Woden and Tuggeranong



## Taxi

Many patients use taxis to get to and from dialysis. To assist in taxi expenses many patients are eligible for the taxi voucher rebate scheme.

- Vouchers are available providing a 50% discount off fares
- Maximum value is \$17 per trip
- Criteria for eligibility include disability, visual impairments, an inability to use public transport and a permanent residency in ACT.

To apply you must complete part A of a Taxi Subsidy Scheme Application form. Part B must be completed by your doctor. Completed forms and a photocopy of a document providing evidence of permanent residency must be sent to the ACT Taxi Subsidy Scheme.

Application forms can be found at [www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au/Services/a/act-taxi-subsidy-scheme-application](http://www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au/Services/a/act-taxi-subsidy-scheme-application)  
For more information call 6205 1012

Some people are eligible for taxi vouchers from your unit. Check at your unit if this is you.

## Ambulance (non-urgent)

Ambulances are usually restricted to those who are severely restricted with mobility, have dementia or reside in nursing homes. If you are applying on their behalf you need to consult with the doctor to determine if they are eligible and to get written medical approval. To use free ambulance cover for non-urgent use you must be over 65 and on an aged care pension.

The limit on private health insurance ambulance use is \$3000 per year. Ambulance fund membership averages up to \$100 per annum. Check carefully re eligibility to avoid unexpected bills.

## Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) provides benefits and services to veterans and their dependents for requirements related to injury or illness. Eligibility for benefits is dependent on the location and time of service. Gold card holders are transport eligible.

For more information visit  
[www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx)  
 Or phone: Local callers: 133 254  
 Regional callers: 1800 555 254



## Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS)

IPTAS can provide assistance towards financial and accommodation expenses to those who are referred to health services not available in ACT. To be eligible you must be a permanent resident of ACT; or be an asylum seeker ineligible for Medicare; and must have claimed maximum benefits from your private health fund.

Patients who travel from regional NSW to the ACT for treatment or home dialysis training may also be eligible for IPTAS.

To apply for IPTAS you must complete an IPTAS form for each return journey and return these to one of the four health centres mentioned below. Forms must be lodged within 6 months of travel.

Tuggeranong: Anketell ST

Phillip: Corinna St

City: Moore St

Belconnen: Swanson St

Forms and more information can be found at:

[www.health.act.gov.au/consumer-information/interstate-patient-travel/](http://www.health.act.gov.au/consumer-information/interstate-patient-travel/)

Or call 6205 3299

## HACC

HACC is the Home and Community care program which provides support and funding for services to elderly people, disabled people and their carers, assisting them to remain at home.

## Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres

These centres provide information and support for elderly people, people with disabilities and carers. The centres provide information about the services available to you, costs, the assessment process and eligibility criteria

Through assessment these centres assist in determining if you are HACC eligible, and the best support services for you. Referral to these services may be provided. There are many walk in centres located around the state.

To find your closest centre or for further information free call 1800 052 222

Or visit [www.health.gov.au/ccsd/](http://www.health.gov.au/ccsd/)

## Regional Community Services

There are six Regional Community Service Centres located in different regions in the ACT (see next page for details). These centres are funded by HACC. Transport is provided to those who are frail or disabled and their carers who live independently in the community. Services include transport to medical appointments; social & recreational activities; as well as shopping and adult education. For eligibility, costs and more information, contact your Regional Community Service listed on the next page, or visit the centre.

## Community Bus Service

Certain Regional Community Services also run a Community Bus Service. This service is available to those who are isolated because they are unable to access other transport options.

Criteria include:

- Seniors in retirement homes or those with mobility problems and their carers
- Individuals unable to use the ACTION bus service
- HACC eligible individuals who are unable to access HACC services
- Parents with young Children who lack transport options

For more information and eligibility contact your Regional Community service or visit their website (details on next page).

Or visit <http://commsatwork.org/community-transport> and click on the ACT Regional Bus Service link.

## Regional Community Services

These community services may be able to assist you with transport

### Belconnen Community Service

26 Chandler St, Belconnen

Email: [bcs@bcsact.com.au](mailto:bcs@bcsact.com.au)

Phone: 6264 0200

[www.bcsact.com.au/community-transport](http://www.bcsact.com.au/community-transport)

### Communities@Work (Tuggeranong and Weston Creek)

Weston Campus Parkinson St, Weston

Email: [admin.west@commsatwork.org](mailto:admin.west@commsatwork.org)

Phone: 6288 4744

[commsatwork.org/community-transport](http://commsatwork.org/community-transport)

### Gungahlin Regional Community Service

Suite 1.1 Gungahlin Market Place, Gungahlin

Email: [grcs@gungahlin.org](mailto:grcs@gungahlin.org)

Phone: 6288 9200

[www.grcs.org.au/node/20](http://www.grcs.org.au/node/20)

### Northside Community Service

Majura Community Centre, Rosevear Place, Dickson

Email: [headoffice@northside.asn.au](mailto:headoffice@northside.asn.au)

Phone: 6247 5757

[www.northside.asn.au/seniors/transport](http://www.northside.asn.au/seniors/transport)

### Southside Community Services

63 Boolimba Crescent, Narrabundah

Email: [bus@sscs.org.au](mailto:bus@sscs.org.au)

Phone: 6126 4723

[www.sscs.org.au/page.php?page\\_id=7](http://www.sscs.org.au/page.php?page_id=7)

Run Community Bus Service only (see last page), no extra transport options

### Woden Community Service

26 Corinna Street, Woden

Email: [transport@wcs.org.au](mailto:transport@wcs.org.au)

Phone: 6260 5400

[http://www.wcs.org.au/programs/aged\\_care/](http://www.wcs.org.au/programs/aged_care/)

Phone Linda for transport specific information: 6234 6852

## Your Dialysis Unit

Talk to your unit for guidance if you are having trouble with attending the unit for your dialysis. Indigenous patients may also find it helpful to get into contact with aboriginal liaisons through the hospital.