Leukaemia Foundation | CUT THE COST OF CANCER

2026 national scorecard: The cost of travelling to treatment

Cancer is expensive enough without travel costs pushing patients further out of pocket. While state and territory travel subsidy schemes exist for regional, rural and remote patients, too many have failed to keep pace with the real cost of travel and accommodation. This scorecard shows a clear equity gap. No patient should receive less support because of their postcode. [1, 2]

Rank	State	Overall score	Car travel subsidy	Current accommodation subsidy	Coverage of real accommodation costs	Recommended accommodation subsidy
1	SA	95.3	34.44c/km	$110/night	70%	Currently meets benchmark
2	WA	87.5	40c/km	$110/night	61%	$125/night
3	TAS	79.2	24c/km	$105/night (interstate)	60%	$125/night
4	NT	73.8	40c/km	$90/night	49%	$155/night [3]
5	NSW	71.5	40c/km	$108.75/night [4]	47%	$160/night
6	QLD	62.3	45c/km	$70/night	37%	$130/night
7	ACT	47.4	29.5c/km	$70/night	30%	$160/night
8	VIC	41.3	21c/km	$49.50/night	28%	$125/night

70% Benchmark

[1] Overall score is calculated using an 80:20 weighting, with 80% based on how well accommodation subsidies cover real costs in each state and 20% based on how well private vehicle subsidies meet a 45c/km minimum benchmark.

[2] Australian Taxation Office, TD 2026/4: Income tax: reasonable travel and overtime meal allowance expense amounts for the 2026-27 income year, Australian Government, 24 June 2026, https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?docid=TXD/TD20264/NAT/ATO/00001.

[3] Place-based recommended rates for NT interstate patient travel are $130 per night in Queensland and $110 per night in South Australia.

[4] $75/night for nights 1-7 and $120/night from night 8, using an average over a 28 day timeframe.