

**Chris Picton MP**  
Minister for Health & Wellbeing

**Leon Bignell MP**  
Member for Mawson

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## **Ferry subsidy expands for Kangaroo Island residents**

Kangaroo Island residents who travel to the mainland for specialised medical treatment will now be able to access up to \$200 in subsidised ferry travel as part of the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS).

For the first time, this means that all people on the island can receive a rebate - even if they live within the 100km radius of Victor Harbor.

The rule change fixes a discrepancy which meant people living on the eastern end of the island often couldn't receive a subsidy from the Scheme when receiving treatment in Victor Harbor, while people on the western end of the island were eligible for rebates.

This is the second major expansion of the Scheme this year, with the fuel subsidy doubling on 1 January, 2023 from 16 cents to 32 cents per kilometre.

Ferry costs to and from Kangaroo Island vary, depending on season and time. It is estimated most people requiring a return trip following the change will save between \$150 and \$200 depending on their claim.

Those who live more than 100km from their specialised medical service will also be able to access an additional fuel subsidy for their travel.

People living on Kangaroo Island are encouraged to check their eligibility or download a claim form through [The Patient Assistance Transport Scheme](https://www.pats.sa.gov.au) – [www.pats.sa.gov.au](https://www.pats.sa.gov.au)

Application forms for claims also available at most local GPs.

### **Quotes attributable to Chris Picton**

*We are fixing things so that all people on Kangaroo Island, no matter where you live, can access the same help with ferry costs.*

*We are pleased to give a helping hand to those needing specialist mainland appointments and make things fair to all Islanders.*

*This follows from the announcement earlier this year that design works are underway on a \$10 million upgrade to the Kangaroo Island Health Service.*

*Midwifery services also returned to Kangaroo Island in February, allowing women to give birth on the Island.*

### **Quotes attributable to Leon Bignell**

*I am delighted that the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme has been expanded to ensure all people on Kangaroo Island benefit from it.*

*This is an important change and will make a significant difference to Islanders, especially at a time when cost of living is hitting everyone hard.*

### **Quotes attributable to Rural Support Service Chief Executive Officer, Debbie Martin**

*We are proud to support more regional residents on Kangaroo Island to make the journey to access medical specialist appointments.*

*This will have a positive impact for so many Island residents and their families. This is especially vital now, given the rising costs of living and fuel.*