

This is our experience travelling to Alice Springs (1000Km round trip) and Adelaide for treatment. On average every 21 days for 4 years (so far).

It is very tough on families who have a member suffering from cancer and living in a remote location. 1000's of dollars was spent on phone calls alone for children speaking to mum while she was in Adelaide (12 year old girl and a 14 year old boy scared about mums condition) and it helped my wife to talk to the kids.

Often after visiting the specialist more tests are requested (a Scan) there is no priority for "out of towners", often you are given a date in 3 days time, this means spending another \$500 on food and accommodation and having to ring Friends who are looking after your children hoping there won't be a problem.

On one occasion there was a problem and we had to return home pick the kids up and then drive back to Alice with the kids the next day.

1. \$33 is not enough to pay for accommodation and food. When receiving chemo you need a stringent hygiene regime which is not possible with a shared bathroom putting unaware people also sharing the bathroom at risk of contamination. You need a better standard of accommodation than \$33 gets you!!!
2. My wife spent 5 months in Adelaide for radiotherapy. My wife's air fares were paid for but I had to pay for my travel to help settle her in for a long stint away from home and family.
3. We had to pay for the one and only visit for our children to visit their mum.
4. I estimate that our family has had to spend to date (treatment is still ongoing) around \$35,000 out of pocket expenses for travel, accommodation, food ETC.
5. We Drive so that we can stop whenever my wife needs to be sick, the cancer has now moved from her breast into her bones and she needs help with mobility and can't sit for hours at a time, so both my wife and myself travel (bit hard to stop the bus to be sick and it is contaminated) and to reduce the loss of wages between 1 and 3 Days
6. You have a treatment that is on going yet you need to get a P.A.T. form signed by a doctor for every visit. Now that a Doctor has started a practice in Tennant Creek and does not bulk Bill we have to pay the bill on the spot and then wait for reimbursement from Medicare and it is \$22.50 less than we paid.

In short to get a PAT form costs now \$22.50. Accommodation costs between \$75 and \$100 dependant on tourist season, food \$90, fuel and the Travel reimbursement are about the same, wear and tear on the car?(100,000 km so far).

Eric Blankenspoor