

Are there any local initiatives in place to assist with the challenges of that geographic distance and transport?

Response:

The Northern Territory Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATs) is a subsidy program that provides financial help for travel and accommodation expenses if you need to travel a long distance to see an approved medical specialist. You must be referred by a medical professional to the nearest approved specialist. The scheme covers all of the following:

- return fares to and from appointments
- accommodation costs of up to \$60 each night
- ground transport costs for taxis and buses - up to \$50 for the entire approved trip will be paid when you provide receipt/s
- you can claim 20 cents per kilometre if you drive more than 200km to an appointment.

Further information on PATs, including eligibility can be found at [Patient Assistance Travel Scheme | NT.GOV.AU](https://www.nt.gov.au/health/patient-assistance-travel-scheme/).

Do you think there's an avenue for that same nurse, if we use that example, to be able to also become a provider in remote communities without having to leave her or his sector?

Response:

The Northern Territory Government is not an NDIS service provider. Nurses working in remote locations are often employed on a full time basis, and therefore there is limited opportunity for having a nurse employed at the local clinic and by an NDIS provider. In circumstances where a nurse is employed on a part-time basis, consideration would need to be given to outside employment arrangements, potential conflicts of interest and fatigue management. The Alternate Commissioning project underway in Maningrida provides an opportunity to consider the practicalities of this type of arrangement.

Does the NT government provide funding to ACCHOs to deliver disability related support?

Response:

The Northern Territory Government does not provide specific funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to deliver disability related supports.