

# National Travel Assistance scheme

*Information sheet on planned changes to the NTA Scheme*

26 March, 2024

## What is the National Travel Assistance (NTA) scheme?

The NTA scheme helps people access specialist health care who need to travel long distances or travel frequently by contributing to their travel and accommodation costs.

## What's changing?

From 1 April 2024 the following changes will be made to the NTA scheme:

- mileage rates will rise from 28c to 34c a kilometre
- nightly accommodation rates will rise from \$100 to \$140 a night. The rate for those staying with friends or whānau will increase from \$25 to \$35 a night.

## Is anything else changing?

Eligible applicants can now also email their travel claims to Health NZ if preferred, as well as posting them in. The addresses are:

- National Travel Assistance Sector Operations, Health NZ, PO Box 1026, Wellington 6140  
or
- Email [claimsmanagement@health.govt.nz](mailto:claimsmanagement@health.govt.nz)

In future, we also intend to:

- introduce easier pre-payment and claiming options,
- make eligibility changes to better target those in need, and
- better promotion and awareness of the scheme

## Why are these changes happening?

The NTA rates were last increased in 2009. The current increases are to help compensate for cost rises in that time.

The other changes are to ensure the NTA more effectively achieves its objective to help those remote from specialist care access and complete treatment, and particularly those who need it most.

## Where can I get more information?

More information is available on the Health NZ [website](#).