



The Pensioner Annual Free Trip Scheme (PAFTS)

What it is, who is eligible and how to apply

What is the PAFTS?

The PAFTS is a subsidy scheme funded by the WA state government that provides pensioners living above the 26th parallel with one return trip to Perth or elsewhere in the South West Land Division (provided the fare is not greater than that to Perth) per calendar year. Pensioners are issued two free trip vouchers every two years by Centrelink, however these vouchers are not accepted by travel agents or airlines in exchange for flight bookings. To obtain an approved travel voucher that will be accepted, you must apply for the PAFTS.

Who is eligible?

The pensioner must:

- have lived north of the 26th parallel for a continuous period of 2 years or more;
- hold a valid pension concession card issued by Centrelink; and
- be able to supply a valid WA free trip voucher with their application form.

What is the subsidy provided?

Subsidised travel is limited to the cost of the fare of the most direct route between home and Perth.

How do I apply?

To apply for the PAFTS you must submit a PAFTS form along with an original and valid WA free trip voucher to the Department of Transport (DoT).

Rule: Only original application forms will be accepted.

If you have never accessed the PAFTS before, or it has been more than 2 years since you last travelled on the scheme, you must also provide evidence that you have resided north of the 26th parallel for the last 2 years.

Rule: Application forms will not be approved if the first travel date is more than 3 months into the future.

If eligible, the DoT will send you an approved travel voucher that can be exchanged with a travel agent or airline for a flight booking.

Conditions of travel

- Travel dates cannot be more than 3 months apart
- Travel must always originate from, and return to, north of the 26th parallel. Travel cannot be undertaken between towns north of the 26th parallel.
- One-way travel will not be approved.
- No allowance is paid for the cost of travel to your departure point
- Travel is subject to the availability of bookings with the airline or bus company.
- Any fees incurred as a result of cancelling or changing travel arrangements must be borne by the traveller.

Refund policy

If you are unable to apply for an approved travel voucher prior to a flight you may apply for a refund of the fare. To apply for a refund you must submit a PAFTS form along with the e-Ticket itinerary receipt and your bank account details.

Rule: Refunds will not be processed until after the return travel date.