

Financial support for home dialysis patients in Tasmania

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions available to patients who receive their dialysis treatment at home. This resource has been developed on behalf of The HOME Network, a group of healthcare professionals who are working in partnership with Kidney Health Australia to address the low uptake of home dialysis in Australia.

Home haemodialysis patients face increased utility costs that result from elevated water usage and electricity requirements necessary to run their dialysis equipment. As this is a recognised medical requirement, the Tasmanian Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in Tasmania also offer a concession on water usage for home dialysis patients. Some states and territories offer ongoing financial assistance and/or a single set-up payment for home dialysis patients. For more information about what is available in Tasmania, contact the Department of Health.

Energy and Water and sewerage concession

The Tasmanian Government provides general concessions on some utility costs for concession card holders. Eligible concession card holders can receive an energy concession of 111.70 cents per day (\$407.71 per year). For further information about the energy rebate, contact Aurora Energy www.auroraenergy.com.au. Concession card holders may also be eligible to receive a rebate of up to \$150.15 per year to assist with their water and sewerage service charges. For more information, visit www.concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/property_and_land_tax/water_and_sewerage_concessions.

Water rebate

Some water suppliers in Tasmania offer a special dispensation for home haemodialysis patients, providing up to 200 kilolitres of water per year without charge. As the concession varies between different water supply companies, contact your water supplier for more information on how they can help.

Life support machine rebate

The Tasmanian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients with a credit of 31.30 cents per day (\$114.23 per year), which is deducted from personal electricity bills by energy retailers. For more information about the electricity rebate and how to apply, visit www.concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/electricity_and_heating.

Household Assistance - Essential medical equipment

The introduction of a carbon price in 2012 is expected to impact on the price of electricity. To offset the electricity price impacts on home dialysis equipment, the Federal Government will provide an Essential Medical Equipment Payment of \$140 annually to Commonwealth Concession Card holders. For more information about this payment, visit www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Fact-sheet-5-Household-assistance-Essential-medical-equipment.pdf.

The HOME Network

The HOME Network is a national initiative to engage healthcare professionals in the field of home dialysis, empowering these individuals to develop solutions to overcome the barriers that currently inhibit the uptake of home therapies in Australia.

Today, The HOME Network comprises a number of task forces, including the *Financial support and advocacy task force*. This team of healthcare professionals aims to address the financial burden experienced by patients who choose to undergo their dialysis treatment at home. This includes understanding financial entitlements for home dialysis patients in each state and territory across Australia, and making this information available to patients, their carers and other healthcare professionals.

The financial assistance available for home dialysis patients differs for each state and territory in Australia. The HOME Network and Kidney Health Australia are looking at ways to address the inequities in the financial support that is available. If you would like further information or to become involved, please see the contact information below.

Contact information for Tasmania

Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Information Service
1800 4 KIDNEY (1800 454 3639)
www.kidney.org.au

The HOME Network

info@themenetwork.com.au

Tasmanian Government

Discounts and Concessions
1300 132 003
www.concessions.tas.gov.au

Department of Health and Human Services

1300 135 513
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au

Aurora Energy

www.auroraenergy.com.au
1300 132 003

Ben Lomond Water

www.benlomondwater.com.au
136 992

Cradle Mountain Water

www.cmwater.com.au
136 992

Southern Water

www.southernwatertas.com.au
136 992

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