



Financial support for home dialysis patients in the Australian Capital Territory

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 Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. The ACT Government also provides eligible home haemodialysis patients with a rebate on water usage costs. 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 the ACT, contact the Department of Health.

Rebates for concession card holders

Concession card holders may be eligible to receive ACT Government funded rebates on their utility costs. The maximum rebate for energy costs is \$346.20 per year and concession card holders may also be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 68% on their water and sewerage costs. For more information about the scheme and eligible concession cards, visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/concessions.

Home Haemodialysis Water rebate

As part of the ACT Government Concession Scheme, eligible home haemodialysis patients can receive a rebate of up to \$3.29 per day on their water costs (\$1,200 per year). Visit www.concessions.act.gov.au /health_and_wellbeing/home_haemodialysis_rebate for more information about this rebate.

Life support rebate

The ACT Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients with a credit of \$121.87 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.act.gov.au/health_and_w ellbeing/life_support.

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 the Australian Capital Territory

Kidney Health Australia

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

The HOME Network

info@thehomenetwork.com.au

ACT Government – Health
Canberra Connect Contact Centre
132 281

www.concessions.act.gov.au

ActewAGL

www.actewagl.com.au 131 493

Origin Country Energy

www.countryenergy.com.au 132 356

TRUenergy

www.truenergy.com.au 133 466

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