The HOME Network™
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KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA®

Financial support for home dialysis patients in **New South Wales**

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 New South Wales (NSW) Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in NSW also offer a concession on water usage costs 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 NSW, contact the Department of Health.

Low income household rebate

A NSW Government funded rebate provides $200 per year to help various concession card holders with their energy costs. See www.dtiris.nsw.gov.au/energy/customers/rebates for more details. Some concession card holders may also be eligible to receive concessions of up to 100% on water service charges and up to 83% on wastewater service charges per year. For more information about these concessions, contact your water supplier.

Water concession

Water suppliers in NSW offer a special dispensation for home haemodialysis patients, providing between 80 and 400 kilolitres of water per year without charge in some areas. As the concession varies between different water supply companies, contact your water supplier for more information on how they can help.

Life support rebate

The NSW Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients with a credit of $0.69 per day ($251.85 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.dtiris.nsw.gov.au/energy/customers/rebates/life-support-rebates-questions.

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 New South Wales

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

The HOME Network
info@thehomenetwork.com.au

NSW Government
Energy information line
1300 136 888
Head Office
(02) 6391 3100
www.dtiris.nsw.gov.au/energy

NSW Department of Health
(02) 9391 9000
www.health.nsw.gov.au

AGL
www.agl.com.au
131 245

ActewAGL Gas & Electricity
www.actewagl.com.au
131 093

Australian Power & Gas
www.australianpowerandgas.com.au
133 298

Country Energy
www.countryenergy.com.au
132 356

Energy Australia
www.energyaustralia.com.au
131 502

Goldenfields Water County Council
www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au
(02) 6977 3200

Gosford/Wyong Councils' Water Authority
www.gwcwater.nsw.gov.au
(02) 4350 5555

Hunter Water Australia
www.hwa.com.au
(02) 4941 5000

Integral Energy
www.integral.com.au
131 002

Lumo Energy
www.lumoenergy.com.au
1300 115 866

Origin Energy
www.originenergy.com.au
132 461

Powerdirect
www.powerdirect.com.au
1300 307 966

Red Energy
www.redenergy.com.au
131 806

Rous Water
www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au
(02) 6621 8055

Riverina Water County Council
www.rwcc.com.au
(02) 6922 0608

Sydney Water
www.sydneywater.com.au
132 092

Sydney Catchment Authority
www.sca.nsw.gov.au
1300 722 468

TRUenergy
www.truenergy.com.au
133 466

Please note that the information provided in **this fact sheet is correct as of September 2011** and is subject to change without notice. This fact sheet is intended as general information only and is not complete or definitive. Kidney Health Australia is not liable, and does not take any responsibility whatsoever for the reliance on such information. If further subsidies are determined or changed please notify Kidney Health Australia and all efforts will be made to update the information as appropriate.
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