

# Financial support for home dialysis patients in the Northern Territory

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions and subsidies available to patients in NT who manage their dialysis treatment at home. However, financial support differs between each State or Territory. This resource has been developed by the HOME Network, a group of healthcare professionals who are working together to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis.

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 NT Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in NT also offer a concession 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 NT contact the Department of Health.

## Rebates for concession card holders

The Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme provides general concessions on some utility costs for holders of various concession cards. For energy costs, the fixed daily concession is **\$356** per year (or \$960 for nocturnal clients) with an additional concession for consumption charges. Similarly, the fixed daily concession for water is **\$256** per year (or \$600 for nocturnal clients) with an additional concession available for water consumption charges. The concession for sewerage services is 75.4 cents per day (\$275.21 per year). For more information about these rebates, visit [http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/40/22.pdf&siteID=1&str\\_title=Ntw concession rates for Power, Water and Sewerage from 1 July 2010.pdf](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/40/22.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Ntw concession rates for Power, Water and Sewerage from 1 July 2010.pdf).

## 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 provides an Essential Medical Equipment

Payment of **\$152** annually to Commonwealth Concession Card holders. Once claimed, the Essential Medical Equipment Payment will be paid annually until the person's circumstances change

For more information about this payment, visit <http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wpcontent/uploads/2012/04/Factsheet-5-EssentialMedicalEquipment-20120416.pdf>.

## **What is the HOME Network?**

Through research, education and advocacy, The HOME Network aims to enable healthcare professionals with knowledge and resources to empower more people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) to embrace the freedom of home dialysis. This national initiative brings together a solution-focused group of home dialysis healthcare professionals from across Australia. The group draws upon all levels of evidence to provide insights and practical options for colleagues throughout Australia to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis. For more information about the HOME Network and to explore resources available to healthcare professionals and patients, please go to our website, [www.homenetwork.net.au](http://www.homenetwork.net.au).

## **Contact information for NT**

### **The Home Network**

Email: [info@homenetwork.net.au](mailto:info@homenetwork.net.au)

Web: [www.homenetwork.net.au](http://www.homenetwork.net.au)

### **Kidney Health Australia**

Kidney Health Information Service

Ph: 1800 4 KIDNEY (1800 454 3639)

Web: [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au)

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### **Northern Territory Government**

Department of Health and Families – 1800 777 704

[www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au)

### **Power and Water Corporation**

General enquiries – 1800 245 092

[www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au)

**Please note that the information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of June 2019 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 and the HOME Network is not liable, and does not take any responsibility whatsoever for reliance on such information.**