



Financial support for home dialysis patients in Queensland

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions and subsidies available to patients in QLD 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 QLD Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in QLD 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 QLD, contact the Department of Health.

Electricity Life Support Concession for Kidney Dialysis

The Queensland Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients with a credit of **\$653.34** per year, which is paid quarterly. To be eligible for this concessional payment, patients must have received their dialysis equipment free of charge through a Queensland Health Hospital.

For more information about this payment and how to apply, [click here](#).

Energy Rebates- Concession Card Holders

The Queensland Government provides general concessions on some utility costs for concession card holders. Eligible concession card holders can receive a rebate of **\$372.20** per year for the electricity rebate and **\$86.75** per year for the reticulated natural gas rebate.

Those residing in the South East Queensland water grid can receive up to **\$120** to assist with their water costs.

Click below for more information on:

- [Electricity and gas rebates](#)
- [Cost of Living Rebate for Households](#)
- [Water Subsidy](#)

Essential Medical Equipment Payment (EMEP)

The introduction of a carbon price in 2012 has impacted 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 **\$183** 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, [click here](#).

Water Concession – Home Haemodialysis

Water suppliers in Queensland offer a special dispensation for home haemodialysis patients, providing between 50 and 400 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 with your water services.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

The PBS Schedule lists subsidised medications for Australian residents with a valid Medicare card and overseas visitors from [RHCA](#) countries. Families, couples, and individuals can receive a subsidised cost threshold known as the 'Safety Net.' From 2023, the threshold is **\$262.80** for concession card holders and **\$1,563.50** for other eligible clients. If you use one pharmacy, they will keep a record of your medications and can provide safety net threshold details. If you use multiple pharmacies or outpatient hospital pharmacies, ask for dispensed item records.

Other ways to save: talk to your chemist about generic brands, non-PBS items, your GP about combining medicines, or using outpatient pharmacies at public hospitals.

For more information about PBS, [click here](#).

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.

Contact information for QLD

The Home Network

Email: info@homenetwork.net.au

Web: www.homenetwork.net.au

Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Information Service

Ph: 1800 454 363

Web: www.kidney.org.au

QLD Department of Health

Community Support, Concession Services

Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Web: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions>

COMPARE AND CHOOSE ELECTRICITY RETAILERS: [CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.

USE [ENERGY MADE EASY](#) TO COMPARE AND CHOOSE A RETAILER.

Utility supplier	Website	Contact Number
AGL	www.agl.com.au	131 245
Energy Australia	www.energyaustralia.com.au	131 466
Ergon Energy	www.ergon.com.au	131 046
Lumo Energy	www.lumoenergy.com.au	1300 115 866
Mackay Water	https://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/residents/services/water	1300 622 529
Queensland Urban Utilities	www.urbanutilities.com.au	132 657
TRUenergy	www.truenergy.com.au	133 466
Unitywater	www.unitywater.com	1300 086 489
Wide Bay Water Corporation	www.widebaywater.qld.gov.au	1300 794 929

Please note that the information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of August 2023 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.