

Financial support for home dialysis patients in **South Australia**

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

Water concession

SA Water offers a special dispensation for home dialysis patients, providing 180 kilolitres of water per year without charge. Contact SA Water for more information about this concession and how to apply.

Rebates for concession card holders

The South Australian Government offers general utility concessions for people holding various concession cards. Eligible card holders can receive maximum annual rebates of \$305 for water and \$114 for sewerage costs. Energy concessions of up to \$223 per year are available to relevant concession card holders. For further information, visit <http://www.dfc.sa.gov.au/pub/default.aspx?tabid=209>.

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 \$157 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.

Contact information for SA

The Home Network

Email: info@homenetwork.net.au

Web: www.homenetwork.net.au

Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Information Service

Ph: 1800 4 KIDNEY (1800 454 3639)

Web: www.kidney.org.au

South Australian Government

Concessions hotline – 1800 307
758

SA Water

SA Water Customer Service – 1300
650 950

www.sawater.com.au

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