

# 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.

## Home Dialysis Electricity Concession

SA Health provides an electricity concession for patients with kidney disease that receive dialysis treatment at home. Households receive **\$165** annually to contribute to the running cost of dialysis equipment at home.

Any person undergoing dialysis treatment at home is eligible provided that the concession has been approved by a SA Health practitioner.

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

## Energy Rebates- Concession Card Holders

The South Australian Government offers general utility concessions for people holding various concession cards.

### Energy bill concessions:

Energy concessions of up to **\$263.15** per year for 2023-24 are available to relevant concession cardholders. For more information, [click here](#).

### Water and sewerage rate concessions:

Eligible cardholders can receive maximum annual rebates of up to **\$359.70** for water and **\$134.10** for sewerage costs. For more information, [click here](#).

### Cost of living concession:

The cost of living concession aids low-income individuals with living expenses such as council rates, energy and medical bills, replacing the council rate concession to ease financial strain. Eligible cardholders can receive up to **\$243.90** in 2023-24. For more information, [click here](#).

## 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

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.

## 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](http://www.homenetwork.net.au).

## Contact information for SA

### 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 454 363

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

### South Australian Government

Concessions hotline – 1800 307 758

### SA Water

SA Water Customer Service – 1300 650 950

Web: [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au)

### Compare and choose the right energy plan for you

<https://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/>

**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.**