

# Financial support for home dialysis patients in Victoria

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

## Home Dialysis Payment

Home haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients managing their own dialysis at home are currently funded through a capitation payment to the patient's specialist renal service.

Hub health services are required to make a mandatory payment to each patient managing their own dialysis in the home as partial reimbursement for costs incurred by the patient. The payments are:

- Home peritoneal dialysis - **\$804** per patient per year pro rata
- Home haemodialysis - **\$2,120** per patient per year pro rata

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](#).

## Life Support Concession -Concession Card Holders

The Victorian Government subsidises the cost of increased **electricity and water requirements** for eligible home dialysis patients and patients holding a Pensioner Concession Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or DVA Gold Card are eligible to receive:

**Electricity:** Eligible home dialysis patients can get a discount on their electricity bills equal to the cost of 1,880 kilowatts per year (470 kilowatt hours per quarter). Energy retailers will deduct the amount from personal bills.

**Water:** The water concession (for haemodialysis users) is equal to the cost of 168 kilolitres of water annually. Concession card holders are eligible to receive 50% deduction on water and sewerage charges up to a yearly maximum of **\$354.10**. Contact your water supplier for more information.

Click below for more information:

- [Life Support Concession](#)
- [Water and Sewerage Concession](#)

## Energy Rebates- Concession Card Holders

The Victorian Government provides additional concessions on some utility costs for holders of various concession cards. Eligible cardholders can receive a 17.5% discount on their annual energy bill.

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

## 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 VIC

### 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)

### VIC Government

Concessions Information Line – 1800 658 521 [concessions@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:concessions@dhs.vic.gov.au)

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/about-concessions#custom-contacts-in-page>

### Victorian Energy Compare

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-compare>

**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.**

Utility supplier	Website	Contact phone number
AGL	<a href="http://www.agl.com.au">www.agl.com.au</a>	131 245
Barwon Water	<a href="https://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/">https://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/</a>	1300 656 007
Central Highlands Water	<a href="http://www.chw.net.au">www.chw.net.au</a>	1800 061 514
City West Water	<a href="http://www.citywestwater.com.au">www.citywestwater.com.au</a>	134 499
Coliban Water	<a href="http://www.coliban.com.au">www.coliban.com.au</a>	1300 363 200
Dodo Power and Gas	<a href="http://www.dodo.com.au/powerandgas">www.dodo.com.au/powerandgas</a>	133 636
East Gippsland Water	<a href="http://www.egwater.vic.gov.au">www.egwater.vic.gov.au</a>	1800 671 841
Energy Australia	<a href="http://www.energyaustralia.com.au">www.energyaustralia.com.au</a>	133 466
Gippsland Water	<a href="http://www.gippswater.com.au">www.gippswater.com.au</a>	1800 050 500
Goulburn Valley Water	<a href="http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au">www.gvwater.vic.gov.au</a>	(03) 5832 4800
Lower Murray Water	<a href="http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au">www.lmw.vic.gov.au</a>	1800 808 030
Lumo Energy	<a href="http://www.lumoenergy.com.au">www.lumoenergy.com.au</a>	1300 115 866
North East Water	<a href="https://www.newater.com.au">https://www.newater.com.au</a>	1300 361 622
Origin Energy	<a href="http://www.originenergy.com.au">www.originenergy.com.au</a>	132 461
Red Energy	<a href="http://www.redenergy.com.au">www.redenergy.com.au</a>	131 806
Simply Energy	<a href="http://www.simplyenergy.com.au">www.simplyenergy.com.au</a>	138 808
South East Water	<a href="http://www.southeastwater.com.au">www.southeastwater.com.au</a>	131 851
South Gippsland Water	<a href="http://www.sgwater.com.au">www.sgwater.com.au</a>	1300 851 636
Wannon Water	<a href="http://www.wannonwater.com.au">www.wannonwater.com.au</a>	1300 926 666
Westernport Water	<a href="http://www.westernportwater.com.au">www.westernportwater.com.au</a>	1300 720 711
Yarra Valley Water	<a href="http://www.yvw.com.au">www.yvw.com.au</a>	1300 304 688