

# Financial support for home dialysis patients in **Western Australia**

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

## **Energy rebate**

The Western Australian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home peritoneal dialysis patients with an annual rebate of **\$85** per year. To be eligible, patients must hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Health Care Interim voucher. For more information about the electricity rebate and how to apply, visit <http://www.finance.wa.gov.au/cms/content.aspx?id=1280>.

## **Rebates for concession card holders**

The Western Australian Government provides additional concessions on some utility costs for holders of various concession cards. Eligible card holders can receive a rebate of **\$234** per year). For information about the energy rebate, contact your energy supplier. Concession card holders may also be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 50% of their annual water services charges. See [http://www.watercorporation.com.au/A/accounts\\_rates\\_concessions.cfm](http://www.watercorporation.com.au/A/accounts_rates_concessions.cfm) for more information.

## **Hospital payment**

Home haemodialysis patients receive a payment of **\$624-780** per year to assist with increased utility charges. This payment is administered monthly by hospitals in Western Australia. For more information, contact your home haemodialysis training unit.

## **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 WA

### 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)

### Western Australian Government

Office of State Revenue – (08) 9262 1373

[lifesupport@dtf.wa.gov.au](mailto:lifesupport@dtf.wa.gov.au)

[www.finance.wa.gov.au](http://www.finance.wa.gov.au)

Utility supplier	Website	Contact phone number
Horizon Power	<a href="http://www.horizonpower.com.au">www.horizonpower.com.au</a>	1800 267 926
Synergy	<a href="http://www.synergy.net.au">www.synergy.net.au</a>	131 353
Water Corporation	<a href="http://www.watercorporation.com.au">www.watercorporation.com.au</a>	131 385

**Please note that the information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of January 2017 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.**