

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.

Energy rebate

The Queensland Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients with a credit of **\$450.03** 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, visit

<http://www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/communities-concessions/documents/pdf/electricity-life-support-info.pdf>.

Rebates for 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 **\$329.96** per year on energy costs. Those residing in the South East Queensland water grid can receive up to \$120 to assist with their water costs. See

<http://www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions> for more information.

Water concession

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.

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.

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 4 KIDNEY (1800 454 3639)

Web: www.kidney.org.au

QLD Department of Health

Department of Communities

Concession Services – (07) 3247

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www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/community/concessions

Utility supplier	Website	Contact phone number
AGL	www.agl.com.au	131 245
Allconnex Water	www.allconnex.com.au	1300 000 928
Australian Power & Gas	www.australianpowerandgas.com.au	133 298
Energy Australia	www.energyaustralia.com.au	131 502
Ergon Energy	www.ergon.com.au	131 046
Lumo Energy	www.lumoenergy.com.au	1300 115 866
Mackay Water		1300 622 529
Powerdirect	www.powerdirect.com.au	1300 307 966
Qenergy	www.qenergy.com.au	1300 44 85 35
Queensland Urban Utilities	www.urbanutilities.com.au	132 657
Sanctuary Energy	www.sanctuaryenergy.com.au	1800 109 099
TRUenergy	www.truenergy.com.au	133 466
Unitywater	www.unitywater.com	1300 086 489
Wide Bay Water Corporation	www.widebaywater.qld.gov.au	1300 808 888

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