

Financial Support

For home dialysis patients in South Australia

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions available to patients who receive their dialysis treatment at home. This resource has been developed on behalf of The HOME Network, a group of healthcare professionals who are working in partnership with Kidney Health Australia to address the low uptake of home dialysis in Australia.

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 South Australian Government provides a number of concessions to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Some states and territories offer ongoing financial assistance and/or a single set-up payment for home dialysis patients.

Home dialysis electricity concession

In 2012 the South Australian Government introduced an electricity concession of \$165 for home dialysis patients, regardless of whether treatment changes during the year.

Those eligible must apply by end of February annually. Forms are available from home dialysis units and should be completed by you and your health practitioner and returned to your renal unit for processing. The payment is paid into your bank account in April or May each year.

Refer to: sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/health+services/health+service+costs+and+concessions

Household Assistance - Essential medical equipment

To offset the electricity price impacts on home dialysis equipment, the Federal Government provides an Essential Medical Equipment payment of \$149 annually to Commonwealth concession card holders.

Refer to: humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment

Medical Heating and Cooling concession

Medical Heating and Cooling concession of up to \$215 per year for both electricity and gas (including LPG bottles) are available to concession card holders. To be eligible you must have a qualifying medical condition, or be a parent/guardian of a child requiring cooling or heating to prevent severe worsening of their condition.

When applying, you must provide certification from a medical specialist or general practitioner that the medical condition is severely worsened by hot or cold weather. To meet their medical heating and cooling requirements you must also prove that you live at the address on the application form and use an air conditioning unit at that address.

Refer to: sa.gov.au/topics/employment-money-taxes/financial-support/concessions-and-benefits/concessions/medical-heating-and-cooling-concession

Water and sewage concessions

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

Eligible card holders can receive maximum annual rebates of \$235 for water and \$105 for sewerage costs.

Refer to: sa.gov.au/topics/employment-money-taxes/financial-support/concessions-and-benefits/concessions/water-and-sewerage-rate-concession

Please note that the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) is now responsible for SA Water's concessions.

Call the Concessions Hotline on freecall 1800 307 758 to find out if you are eligible.

Refer to: sawater.com.au/accounts-and-billing/paying-your-bill/concessions

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The HOME Network

The HOME Network is a national initiative to engage healthcare professionals in the field of home dialysis, empowering these individuals to develop solutions to overcome the barriers that currently inhibit the uptake of home therapies in Australia.

Today, The HOME Network comprises a number of task forces, including the Financial Support and Advocacy Task Force. This team of healthcare professionals aims to address the financial burden experienced by patients who choose to undergo their dialysis treatment at home. This includes understanding financial entitlements for home dialysis patients in each state and territory across Australia, and making this information available to patients, their carers and other healthcare professionals.

Financial assistance available for home dialysis patients differs for each state and territory in Australia. The HOME Network and Kidney Health Australia have looked at ways to address inequities in the financial support available. If you would like further information or to become involved, refer to the contact information below.

Useful contacts - for South Australia

Kidney Health Australia
Kidney Health Information Service
1800 454 3639
kidney.org.au
homedialysis.org.au
homedialysis@kidney.org.au

South Australian Government

SA Health
08 8226 6000
sahealth.sa.gov.au

Concessions Finder
dcsi.sa.gov.au/concessions

Concessions Hotline
1800 307 758
sa.gov.au/topics/employment-money-taxes/financial-support/concessions-and-benefits

SA Water
1300 650 950
sawater.com.au

AGL
131 245
agl.com.au

Alinta Energy
133 702
alintaenergy.com.au

Energy Australia
133 466
energyaustralia.com.au

Lumo Energy
1300 115 866
lumoenery.com.au

Origin Energy
132 461
originenergy.com.au

Powerdirect
1300 307 966
powerdirect.com.au

Red Energy
131 806
redenergy.com.au

Simple Energy
1800 009 147
simpleenergy.com.au

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