

Financial Support

For home dialysis patients in Australian Capital Territory

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 ACT Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment.

The ACT Government also provides eligible 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. For more information about what is available in ACT, contact the Department of Health.

Home haemodialysis water rebate

As part of the ACT Government Assistance Scheme, eligible home haemodialysis patients can receive a rebate of up to \$3.29 per day on their water costs (\$1,200 per year).

Refer to: assistance.act.gov.au/adult/utilities/home_haemodialysis_rebate

Concession card holders may also be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 68% of their water and sewerage costs provided every quarter from the supply charge only.

Refer to: assistance.act.gov.au/adult/utilities/water_rebate

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

Rebates for concession card holders

To minimise your overall cost of living, eligible concession card holders can receive an ACT Government funded Energy Concession of up to \$338.21.

The Utility Concession offers another deduction of \$88.25 to offset the rise in basic utility costs, including water bills.

The total of these rebates are \$426.46 per year. The combined Energy and Utility Concession will be applied to the applicant's electricity bill.

Refer to: assistance.act.gov.au/adult/utilities/energy_concession

Life support rebate

The ACT Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for eligible home dialysis patients with a credit of \$121.87 per year, which is deducted from personal electricity bills by energy retailers.

Refer to: assistance.act.gov.au/person_with_health_issues/health_and_dental/life_support_rebate

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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 Australian Capital Territory

Kidney Health Australia
Kidney Health Information Service
1800 454 363

kidney.org.au
homedialysis.org.au
homedialysis@kidney.org.au

ACT Government - Department of Health
Canberra Connect Contact Centre
132 281
assistance.act.gov.au

ActewAGL
131 493
actewagl.com.au

Origin Energy
132 461
originenergy.com.au

Energy Australia
133 466
energyaustralia.com.au

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