

# Financial Support

## For home dialysis patients in Northern 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 Northern Territory 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.

### Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme

The Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme provides general concessions on some utility costs for holders of various concession cards. For energy costs, the fixed daily concession is \$1.268 per day, with an additional concession of .91 cents for each Kilowatt used for energy consumption charges.

Similarly, the fixed daily concession for water is 95.6 cents per day, with an additional concession of 95.3 cents per kilolitre available for water consumption charges. The concession for sewerage services is \$1.323 cents per day.

Refer to: [health.nt.gov.au/NT\\_Pensioner\\_and\\_Carer\\_Concession\\_Scheme\\_NTPCCS/index.aspx](http://health.nt.gov.au/NT_Pensioner_and_Carer_Concession_Scheme_NTPCCS/index.aspx)

### 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.

Once claimed, the Essential Medical Equipment payment will be paid annually until the person's circumstances change.

You may be eligible for this payment if you or the person in your regular care at home:

- are covered by a Commonwealth concession card issued by us or the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- provide proof that the heating or cooling or specified equipment is medically required
- are responsible, either wholly or partly, for meeting the energy costs associated with running the equipment

Refer to: [humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment](http://humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment)

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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 Northern Territory

**Kidney Health Australia**  
Kidney Health Information Service  
1800 454 3639

[kidney.org.au](http://kidney.org.au)  
[homedialysis.org.au](http://homedialysis.org.au)  
[homedialysis@kidney.org.au](mailto:homedialysis@kidney.org.au)

**Power and Water Corporation**  
1800 245 092  
[powerwater.com.au](http://powerwater.com.au)

### Northern Territory Government

Department of Health  
08 8999 2400  
[health.nt.gov.au](http://health.nt.gov.au)

NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme  
1800 777 704  
[health.nt.gov.au/NT\\_Pensioner\\_and\\_Carer\\_Concession\\_Scheme\\_NTPCCS/index.aspx](http://health.nt.gov.au/NT_Pensioner_and_Carer_Concession_Scheme_NTPCCS/index.aspx)

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**Please note:** Information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of June 2016 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 the reliance on such information.