

# Financial Support

## For home dialysis patients in Tasmania

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 Tasmanian Government provides a number of subsidies 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.

### 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](https://humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment)

### Life support equipment electricity subsidy

The Tasmanian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for eligible home dialysis patients with a credit of 70.478 cents per day (\$144.23 per year), which is deducted from personal electricity bills by energy retailers.

Refer to: [concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/electricity\\_and\\_heating](https://concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/electricity_and_heating)

### Energy, water and sewerage concession card holders

Eligible customers can receive a Tasmanian Government funded concession of up to \$183 (\$91.50 for water, \$91.50 for sewerage) off their charges for the financial year.

The Medical cooling or heating concession provides a daily discount to eligible customers who have, or who live with a person who has, a medical condition that requires the cooling or heating of the customer's principal place of residence in order to manage that medical condition. The current concession is 38.387 cents per day.

Refer to: [concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/electricity\\_and\\_heating](https://concessions.tas.gov.au/concessions/electricity_and_heating)

### Water rebate

Some water suppliers in Tasmania offer a special dispensation for home haemodialysis patients, providing up to 200 kilolitres of water per year without charge. As concessions vary, please contact TasWater for more information. Refer to: [taswater.com.au/Your-Account/Concessions-and-Rebates](https://taswater.com.au/Your-Account/Concessions-and-Rebates)

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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 Tasmania

**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)

**Tasmanian Government**  
Discount and Concessions  
08 9262 1373  
[concessions.tas.gov.au](http://concessions.tas.gov.au)

**Tasmanian Government**  
Department of Health & Human Services  
1300 135 513  
[dhhs.tas.gov.au](http://dhhs.tas.gov.au)

**Aurora Energy**  
1300 132 003  
[auroraenergy.com.au](http://auroraenergy.com.au)

**Momentum Energy**  
1300 662 778  
[momentum.com.au](http://momentum.com.au)

**TasWater**  
136 992  
[taswater.com.au](http://taswater.com.au)  
[enquiries@taswater.com.au](mailto:enquiries@taswater.com.au)

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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.