

Concession of Water Charges for Home Haemodialysis Patients Policy

Local Government Regulation 2012

1. Policy Statement

Townsville City Council (Council) will provide a concession for water service charges incurred in respect of kidney disease patients who are undergoing home haemodialysis treatment.

2. Principles

Home haemodialysis treatment requires kidney disease patients to increase their water consumption over and above their normal domestic usage.

Council accepts that ratepayers who are responsible for paying additional water consumption charges for water consumed during home haemodialysis experience hardship, and the Council wishes to alleviate that hardship.

Council will grant a concession on water service charges payable during treatment at the home of a haemodialysis patient when the ratepayer establishes to the Council that they are responsible for paying the water consumption charges.

3. Scope

This policy applies to ratepayers within the Townsville local government area who may experience hardship as a result of paying or having an obligation to pay or share in the cost of paying, additional water consumption charges arising from home haemodialysis treatment.

4. Responsibility

The Chief Executive Officer or delegate is responsible for approving concessions under this policy. Managers are responsible for ensuring that the policy is understood and adhered to by all relevant workers.

5. Definitions

Home Haemodialysis Patient - means those persons within the Townsville local government area, who are registered with the Dialysis Home Therapies Unit, Townsville District Health Service, as receiving home haemodialysis treatment.

Manager - an individual responsible for overseeing and coordinating specific functions, departments, teams or projects within Townsville City Council.

Workers - includes employees, contractors, volunteers and all others who perform work on behalf of Council.

6. Policy

Council will provide a concession on water charges for residential premises occupied by home haemodialysis patients who meet the eligibility criteria set out in this policy.

The concession will be \$267.00 per annum or pro-rata throughout the period of home haemodialysis, administered on each half yearly rate notice.

The ratepayer is required to submit their request for this concession in writing to Council and provide the required documentation set out below. Council receives confirmation of haemodialysis patients from Renal Home Therapies, Townsville District Health Services and confirms continued eligibility annually.

Council will regard a ratepayer as having an obligation to pay or contribute to paying the additional water consumption charges arising from home haemodialysis treatment when they:

- i. are the ratepayer for the property as shown on the Council's records and they or a dependant member of their family receive home haemodialysis treatment;
or
- ii. provide Council with a statutory declaration that records that they are liable for the cost of the water consumption charges under an arrangement they have with a home haemodialysis patient, and a declaration from the patient that records that the additional water charges have not been passed on to the patient.

(Example: The ratepayer is the landlord of a property occupied by a home haemodialysis patient and they provide the Council with a declaration from the patient that certifies that the patient has not been charged for or otherwise contributed to paying the additional water consumption charges).

7. Legal Parameters

Local Government Act 2009

Local Government Regulation 2012

8. Associated Documents

Nil