



Bellingen Shire Council **POLICY**



Internal Use Only



External Use

DIALYSIS REBATE POLICY

Department: Corporate and Community Services
Responsible Officer: Deputy General Manger Corp & Comm.
Contact Officer: Manager, Finance
Date Approved by Council: 27 February 2013

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1. **PURPOSE**

To establish the circumstances under which rebates can be applied to water charges for residents of properties who require the use of dialysis machines or other health related treatments in the home.

2. **SCOPE**

This Policy is to provide assistance to water customers who are required to use large amounts of water where they are required to undertake kidney dialysis treatment or other health related treatments in the home.

3. **DEFINITIONS**

In this policy:

- “**Council**” means the Bellingen Shire Council
- “**Resident**” means the occupier of a dwelling within Bellingen Local Government Area.
- “**NCAHS**” means the North Coast Area Health Service.

4. **POLICY STATEMENT**

4.1 The rebate will be applied in the following circumstances:

Kidney Dialysis Patients Undertaking Treatment at Home

Council provides a quarterly water usage rebate for the first 80 kilolitres of water consumption on water/sewer accounts for properties where the North Coast Area Health Service (NCAHS) confirm in writing that a dialysis machine is used by a resident of the property. The written confirmation must contain the name of the resident using the dialysis, the property address and the date of commencement of dialysis.

Other Health Related Home Treatment

Property owners or residents in the care of the property owner, who can demonstrate that they are required to undertake treatment in their home that requires substantial water use will be granted a rebate on water consumption for their principal residence. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Applications are to be made as follows:

- Applications must be made each financial year.
- Applications must be received in writing and include:

For Kidney Dialysis Patients:

Written evidence from a registered medical practitioner or hospital that they are required to undertake home dialysis treatment (specifying the details of the treatment, including length of such treatment if known), which requires substantial water use.

For other Health Related Treatments

Written evidence from a registered medical practitioner or hospital that they are required to undertake some form of home treatment (specifying the details of the treatment, including length of such treatment if known), which requires substantial water use.

4.2 Rebate Approvals

All applications will be assessed by the Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community in accordance with this policy.

4.3 Application Guidelines

Kidney Dialysis Patients

Water customers will be eligible for a quarterly rebate equivalent to the value of 80 kilolitres based on the first tier water charge when registered with Council as operating a kidney dialysis machine at their residence.

If home dialysis treatment ceases, the property owner must inform Council that this has occurred and the rebate will be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Failure to do so will result in the rebate being cancelled from the date of the billing reading for which the current or latest account had been issued.

For Other Health Related Treatment

Water customers will be eligible for a quarterly rebate equivalent to the value of 80 kilolitres based on the first tier water charge when registered with Council to undertake the home treatment required.

The increased water use must be substantiated by a registered medical practitioner. These cases will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with approvals granted by the Deputy General Manager Corporate and Community.

If home treatment ceases, the resident must inform Council that this has occurred and the rebate will be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Failure to do so will result in the rebate being cancelled from the date of the billing reading for which the current or latest account had been issued.