



Life Support Equipment Energy Subsidy Scheme

12 February 2018

The Life Support Equipment Energy Subsidy ('subsidy') is provided to assist financially disadvantaged persons, or their dependants, to meet the energy costs associated with operating life support equipment in their home under specialist medical advice.

Subsidy payments are made directly into a cheque or savings account nominated by the applicant.

Eligibility for the Subsidy

To be eligible to receive the subsidy, an applicant must hold one of the following means-tested concession cards:

- **Pensioner Concession Card** (issued by either Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs); or
- **Health Care Card** (not including the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card); or
- **Health Care Interim Voucher**.

The Office of State Revenue ('State Revenue') will require the applicant's authorisation to confirm the status of the concession card with Centrelink and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The applicant may be either –

- **the patient** who requires the specified life support equipment for their own use; or
- **the guardian or primary caregiver** of a person who utilises the energy for life support equipment in their own home.

Where the applicant is a child or an adult who is unable to sign the application form due to age or disability, the guardian or primary caregiver may sign the form on their behalf provided the reason for doing so is noted on the application form.

Medical authorisation

Medical authorisation (section 6 of the application form) must be provided by –

- a specialist medical practitioner or a medical practitioner working in a specialist department of a hospital; or
- a hospice doctor; or
- in an area outside of the Perth Metropolitan Area, a doctor or General Practitioner who also works on an occasional basis from a local hospital or rural health service.

Specified life support equipment

Applicable specified equipment must be prescribed by an authorised medical practitioner (see 'Medical authorisation' above) and must be operated at the applicant's home address.

The following table lists the specified life support equipment and the amount of the annual subsidy that is applicable per item of equipment. Equipment not listed in this table is not covered under this scheme.

Specified Life Support Equipment	Annual Subsidy
Ventilators - VPAP or BPAP	\$451
Ventilator - CPAP – only when required as life support equipment*	\$451
Oxygen Concentrator (standard capacity – Adult)	\$862
Oxygen Concentrator (high capacity 'New Life Intensity' – Adult)	\$1,243
Oxygen Concentrator (standard capacity – Child)	\$1,292
Feeding Pump	\$154
Suction Pump	\$204
Apnoea Monitor (Child only)	\$258
Heart Pump	\$407
Nebuliser (Child only – used every day for 1-2 hours per day)	\$50
Nebuliser (Adult - adults with a tracheostomy expected to be in place for more than 6 months where nebulised therapy is required for life support purposes)	\$50
Machine Assisted Peritoneal Dialysis Equipment	\$94

* Only CPAP machines that are clinically prescribed for very severe obstructive sleep apnoea critical for life support with use for over four hours per night are eligible.

How to Apply

The 'Life Support Equipment Energy Subsidy Application Form' must be completed in full, and the authorisation and declaration signed by the applicant and patient, as applicable (see section 5 of the application form).

The medical authorisation must be completed in full by an authorised medical practitioner (see *Medical authorisation* above and section 6 of the application form).

To ensure payment is made in a timely manner, please provide the relevant bank account details **as they appear on your bank statement**. This includes the name of the bank, the branch location, the BSB and account number, and the name of the account holder. If you are unsure about any of these details, please contact your bank for assistance.

Where the patient lives in a form of supported accommodation such as a nursing home, permanent caravan park or similar, a copy of an invoice or similar document showing that the applicant is individually billed and pays for measured energy usage must be included with the application form.

Application forms can be obtained from www.finance.wa.gov.au or by phoning the Energy Subsidies Enquiry Line on 9262 1373.

State Revenue has the right to decline an application (or demand repayment of any subsidy already paid) in situations where the Commissioner is of the reasonable opinion that false or misleading information has been provided, or where the eligibility criteria have not been met. Applicants may seek review of such a decision.

Renewing Your Application

A renewal letter will be mailed to the applicant each year on the anniversary date of the application. Application for the subsidy must be renewed annually and any changes to the patient's circumstances or application details must be provided. It is important to notify State Revenue of changes to the applicant's postal and/or residential address to ensure that the renewal letter is received.

Every three years the patient's specified life support equipment will need to be recertified by the authorised medical specialist to confirm ongoing eligibility for the subsidy.

Energy Supply Outages – Special Needs Customers

Keeping you safely connected to the electricity supply at all times is vital. If you have not already done so, it is essential that you contact your electricity retailer to register as a Life Support customer as soon as possible. Details can be found on your electricity retailer's website or by phoning them directly.

Concession Cards

Information regarding Pensioner Concession Cards and Health Care Cards is available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or your local Centrelink office.

Further Information

Further information regarding the subsidy is available on the State Revenue website at www.finance.wa.gov.au. Make an enquiry at <http://www.osr.wa.gov.au/EnergySubsidiesEnquiry> or phone the Energy Subsidies Enquiry Line on 9262 1373.

Contact the Office of State Revenue

Office	Office of State Revenue 200 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000	Telephone	9262 1373
		Enquiries	www.osr.wa.gov.au/EnergySubsidiesEnquiry
Postal	Office of State Revenue GPO Box T1600 PERTH WA 6845	Website	www.finance.wa.gov.au

Note: The information contained in this ENERGY SUBSIDY FACT SHEET is issued for guidance purposes only. It is not an exhaustive explanation of the Life Support Equipment Energy Subsidy Scheme. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Office of State Revenue.