



**POLICY No: WSC040**

# **POLICY FOR WATER USAGE CHARGE CONCESSIONS FOR HOME DIALYSIS**

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**CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY OF POLICY ADOPTED BY COUNCIL**

<b>AUTHOR SIGNATURE</b>	
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**History of Revisions:**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>TRIM Doc. #</b>
1	27/6/2007	D00898294
2	26/3/2014	D06169565

**A. POLICY SUMMARY**

- A1 This policy defines the circumstances under which Council will provide concessions on increases in user charges resulting from water used by home haemodialysis and peritoneal patients. This policy also defines how such concessions are calculated.

**B. POLICY BACKGROUND**

- B1 Wyong Council is a water supply authority under the WMA – s285 and Schedule 3.
- B2 Council applies user charges for water supply services based on volumes of water supplied to properties as registered on the water meters attached to each property – s310.
- B3 The WMA provides that property owners are liable for payment of any charges levied under those acts - s316.
- B4 The WMA or regulations do not require Council to provide concessions or reductions in charges for water registered through meters but subsequently used for haemodialysis and in the hygiene requirements process associated peritoneal dialysis.
- B5 Council recognises that water usage for this purpose is necessary in order that patients undergoing kidney dialysis can receive essential life supporting treatment and enjoy the benefits that home dialysis treatment provides.
- B6 Council wishes to provide financial relief for customers that incur increases in user charges accounts resulting from home dialysis treatment.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

- C1 **Council** means the elected representatives, Councillors, who form the governing body of Wyong Shire Council and the organisation responsible for the administration of Council affairs and operations and the implementation of Council policy and strategies.
- C2 **Daily Average Usage** of water calculated as the volume of water supplied in a meter reading period expressed in Kilolitres (KI) divided by the number of days in the same meter reading period.
- C3 **Meter Reading period** means the period of time between readings of a water meter.
- C4 **The LGA** means the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- C5 **The Regulations** means the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2011*.
- C6 **The WMA** means the *Water Management Act 2000*.
- C7 **Volume of water supplied** means the quantity of water supplied to a property as measured through the water meter(s) attached to the property.

## **D. POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **Jurisdiction**

- D1 This Policy covers all elected members of Council, all personnel employed by Wyong Council, any person or organisation contracted to or acting on behalf of Council, any person or organisation employed to work on Council premises or facilities and all activities of the Council.
- D2 This policy does not confer any delegated authority upon any person. All delegations to staff are issued by the General Manager.

### **Conditions**

- D3 Concessions under this policy are provided to residents who:
- a. undergo kidney dialysis treatment at home using the haemodialysis method and,
  - b. hold a current Health Care Benefit Card or Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Australian Government Department of Human Services or Department of Veteran's Affairs

### **Concessions**

- D4 Council will provide an allowance equivalent to the lesser of the actual daily average usage of the patient's residence and;
- a. 500 litres per day for haemodialysis patient's, or;
  - b. 1,000 litres per day for nocturnal haemodialysis patients, or;
  - c. 100 litres per day for peritoneal dialysis patients.

## **E. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION - PROCEDURES**

- E1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the Wyong Council Code of Conduct.
- E2 It is the personal responsibility of all Council employees and agents thereof to have knowledge of, and to ensure compliance with this policy.
- E3 Wyong Shire Council will individually assess requests for concessions under this policy.
- E4 Applications must be made in writing.
- E5 Applications must be supported with a letter from the NSW Local Area Health Service, a renal physician or a registered dialysis centre confirming that the patient is undergoing haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis treatment at home and detailing the patients name and address.
- E6 Alternatively the NSW Local Area Health Service, renal physician or registered dialysis centre may make the application and provide the details.
- E7 A copy of the applicant's current Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card must also be provided at the time of application.
- E8 Council may conduct reviews on annual basis to ensure compliance with eligibility conditions under this policy.

- E9 Concessions provided under this policy will only be provided for the period in which the eligibility conditions under this policy are met.
- E10 Applications that do not fully comply with this policy or where customers seek concessions in excess of those provided for in this policy may be considered by the Council Chief Financial Officer.
- E11 Associated documents**
- Wyong Council Code of Conduct