



Important Information

Please read this before you make a claim for an EMEP (Essential Medical Equipment Payment)

The purpose of the Essential Medical Equipment Payment (EMEP) is to cover the additional costs of running essential medical equipment or medically required heating and/or cooling that will arise from the introduction of a carbon price.

The EMEP is available:

- In addition to any existing State and Territory Government schemes. Details of any State and Territory Government schemes are available from the relevant State and Territory Governments.
- To eligible Australians who experience additional increases in home energy costs under a carbon price as a result of the need to operate essential medical equipment or medically required heating and/or cooling in their home to manage their disability or medical condition.

Eligibility to make a claim

To be eligible to make an EMEP claim the user of essential medical equipment or their carer must meet certain criteria. These criteria are:

1. Valid residences

For the purpose of the Essential Medical Equipment Payment, a valid residence **must** be the person's home located in Australia and is either a private residence, or any other dwelling **excluding** the list below:

- a residence in which the person is in residential care;
- hospital or other medical facility;
- residential rehabilitation centre;
- prison and detention centres.

2. Commonwealth Government Concession cards

If you wish to claim an EMEP through DVA the person with medical needs, or their carer must hold, or be listed on a Commonwealth Government concession card **issued by Department of Veterans' Affairs:**

Gold Card or White Card; **or**

Pensioner Concession Card (PCC);

Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC).

Claimants must understand and acknowledge their obligations relating to any EMEP claims made by them or on their behalf by signing the claim form.



3. Essential Medical Equipment used in the manner prescribed

Equipment not listed is not covered under the EMEP scheme.

If requested, the need for the essential medical equipment can be medically justified.

- Home Dialysis Machine
- Positive Airways Pressure Device
- Home Respirator
- Home Ventilator
- Home Parenteral and Enteral Feeding Device
- Oxygen Concentrator
- Heart Pump
- Suction Pump
- Infant Apnoea Monitor - prescribed by a medical practitioner following apnoeic episodes
- Nebuliser – used daily
- Phototherapy Equipment
- Airbed Vibrator
- Electric wheelchair
- Insulin Pump

4. Medically required heating and/or cooling

To qualify for the EMEP in respect of medically required heating and/or cooling, the person with medical needs must meet the following criteria:

- the person has a specified medical condition (listed below); **and**
- the person is unable to regulate his or her body temperature because of that medical condition; **and**
- requires medical heating and/or cooling in their home; **and**
- without medical heating and/or cooling, the person risks serious harm to his or her health.

The specified medical conditions are as follows:

- spinal cord injury at or above the T7 level; **or**
- stroke; **or**
- brain injury; **or**
- a neurodegenerative disorder; **or**
- the muscular dystrophies; **or**
- full thickness burns covering more than 20 per cent of the body surface area; **or**
- rare disorders of sweating including congenital absence or mal development of sweat glands; **or**
- chronic erythrodermas.

5. Proof that medical equipment is required

To qualify for the EMEP, if the equipment was not provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), the claimant must provide proof that they, or the person they care for, requires the specified medical equipment or medically required heating and/or cooling.

This proof can be provided by submitting either:

- a signed declaration from a Medical Practitioner;
- evidence that the person with medical needs, or their carer, currently qualifies for assistance for the same specified medical equipment under one of the State or Territory Government schemes. All claims for medically required heating and/or cooling have to be verified by a medical practitioner.

Note: Where eligibility for an Essential Medical Equipment Payment has been established for a person with medical needs in respect of a given piece of essential medical equipment or medical heating and/or cooling, evidence provided to the Department of Veterans' Affairs is **not** required again.

6. Proof of responsibility for energy costs and approved energy forms

To be eligible, the equipment must be powered by an approved form of energy, being electricity; natural or liquid petroleum gas; diesel; heating oil; petrol or kerosene.

To qualify for the EMEP the claimant will need if requested, to provide evidence that they are:

- the relevant energy account holder for the residence, **or**
- the partner of the relevant energy account holder for the residence, **or**
- able to demonstrate:
 - that you are responsible for contributing towards payment of the energy account for the residence, **or**
 - that the person with the medical needs is responsible for contributing towards payment of the energy account for the residence.

Examples of the evidence that can be provided include (but are not confined to):

- a recent account at the relevant residence, in the name of the claimant, their partner or the person with medical needs they care for, **or**
- where an energy account is not available, or the claimant's name does not appear on the energy account, a signed declaration from the account holder, that the claimant, or the person with medical needs that they care for, contributes towards payment of the energy account for the relevant residence.

Note: This evidence is **not** required at the time of claim but **must** be provided if later requested by DVA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Essential Medical Equipment - Carer status

For the purposes of the EMEP, a carer is a person who provides care and attention on a regular and ongoing basis for a person with medical needs.

The carer of the person with medical needs is **not** required to be recognised as a formal carer, but must live together in the same residence at the time the EMEP application is made.

A carer relationship is assumed between a child and an adult responsible for their care, including a foster carer of a child or **both** parents in a shared care arrangement. The carer of a non-dependant child may also qualify for this payment.

Where the person with the medical needs is not a dependant child, this person **must** authorise that a carer can make a claim for the EMEP.

How many EMEP claims can be made?

Claims up to a maximum of 2 residences per financial year can be made.

If you are the **carer** of a person with medical needs or a user of a qualifying piece of essential medical equipment, you may claim a single payment for **each piece** of essential medical equipment, up to a **maximum** of 2 residences **per** financial year.

If you are the **carer** of a person using a piece of essential medical equipment, **and** this person lives in different locations during a given financial year, then it is possible for both you and **one other carer** to claim separately, where both carers are responsible for payment of their respective energy account.

For example;

An elderly parent living with different family members during the year, where the family member, **not** the equipment user, is responsible for payment of the energy account. Claims may be made for **up to a maximum of 2 residences, for each piece** of essential medical equipment for the person with the medical condition, in a single financial year.

A separate claim must be lodged for each residence, should the user of the essential medical equipment move between residences (either their own home or that of a family member/carer) a new claim for EMEP is to be lodged at each move.

Shared equipment

Where one piece of essential medical equipment, or medically required heating and/or cooling, is shared by multiple people in the same residence, then only one EMEP is payable in respect of that equipment and residence per financial year.

For example:

- 2 people living in the same house share the use of a single nebuliser - only one EMEP is payable, **or**
- 2 people living in the same house require medical heating and/or cooling - only one EMEP is payable (this also applies where one person uses medically required heating and the other person uses medical required cooling).

The EMEP is payable as a lump sum, only to the claimant, and can not be split. Where a sharing arrangement exists, both parties should acknowledge and nominate the claimant prior to making a claim for this payment.

How much will be paid?

During the 2012-2013 financial year, the EMEP will be \$140. This payment will be indexed annually, on 1 July each year, in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Recipients will not have to reclaim annually. Once granted, payments will be made each year thereafter on the anniversary of the claim, unless circumstances change e.g. change of residence, medical equipment no longer required.

The EMEP is paid at one rate, regardless of the piece of equipment being operated.

The Essential Medical Equipment Payment will:

- be a tax free lump sum, paid annually;
- be exempt income under social security law, veterans' law and families law;
- be paid annually after the initial payment, unless the customer advises a change in circumstances that would invalidate their eligibility on the anniversary date;
- not be subject to an income or asset test;
- not be split to match differences in energy billing cycles; and
- be payable in addition to any existing State and Territory Government schemes.

EMEP claim forms, including the Medical Confirmation form, are available from DVA Offices or can be downloaded from the internet at:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/>

<http://www.dva.gov.au/householdassistance>

Completed claim forms and completed Medical Confirmation are to be forwarded to:

**Department of Veterans' Affairs
EMEP Claims Processing
PO Box 9998
(Your Capital City)**

All telephone enquiries should be directed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs on **133 254 (1800 555 254** for regional callers).