

# Victorian concessions

A guide to discounts and services for eligible households in Victoria



To receive this document in another format,  
phone 1800 658 521, using the National Relay  
Service 13 36 77 if required, or email Concessions  
**concessions@health.vic.gov.au.**

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# Minister's foreword

Many Victorians are facing unexpected hardship and financial stress due to the impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters, such as bushfires, storms and floods. Now more than ever, it's important that we do our part to help our fellow Victorians meet the costs of living and ensure no one is left behind.

Victoria's concession program gives a helping hand to people who need it most by making important everyday services more affordable.

Concessions help low-income earners afford essential services such as housing, water, energy, health, education and transport. This means more people can get the services they need to sustain better living standards and improve their health and wellbeing.

Utility Relief Grants are also available to help those households and families suffering unexpected hardship, like losing a job, pay their water, gas or electricity bills.

More than 900,000 Victorian households receive assistance to pay for vital services through the concessions program.

This guide will make it easier for people to identify and apply for concessions that suit their needs. It will help Victorians understand how household concessions can help meet the cost of rates, water, energy and gas bills – particularly those who may be claiming concessions for the first time.

All Victorians deserve equal access to the services they need to have a good quality of life and I hope you find this guide useful.



**The Hon Luke Donnellan MP**  
Minister for Child Protection  
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers

# Introduction

The Victorian Government offers concessions to make essential services – rates, water, electricity and gas – more affordable for low-income households and to help out with bills in times of hardship.

Concessions are also available on health, education, transport and other services for eligible people and families.

This guide outlines concessions that can help you pay your bills, who is eligible for concessions, how to apply for them and who to contact for more information.



**Energy concessions**



**Rates and property concessions**



**Water concessions**



**Hardship**



**Other concessions and services**

## Contacts

For more information about the concessions program, phone the Concessions Information Line on **1800 658 521** (toll free) or visit Services Concessions and benefits [services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits](https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits).

## Some definitions

Backdate – to apply a concession from a date in the past

Concession – discount or amount taken off your bill

Domestic – household, not business

Eligible – meet the requirements

Essential services – services essential to life – gas, electricity, water

Retailer – the company that sends you the bills



## Interpreting services

For help in languages other than English, phone the Concessions Information Line on **1800 658 521 (toll free)** and ask for an interpreter.

عربي

للمساعدة في لغتك اتصل بخط المعلومات للخصومات على هاتف رقم **1800 658 521 (مجاني)** وأطلب مترجم.

Ελληνικά

Για βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας τηλεφωνήστε στη Γραμμή Πληροφοριών Εκπτώσεων στο **1800 658 521 (χωρίς χρέωση)** και ζητήστε ένα διερμηνέα.

Русский

Если вам нужна помощь на вашем родном языке, позвоните на Информационную линию по вопросам льгот по номеру **1800 658 521 (бесплатный звонок)** и попросите, чтобы вас соединили с переводчиком.

普通话

如果需要用你的语言提供的帮助，请拨打福利优惠信息专线 **1800 658 521**（免费电话），并要求口译员协助。

廣東話

若需要使用你所說語言的幫助，請致電優惠資訊專線**1800 658 521**（免費電話），請求找口譯員。




Türkçe

Kendi dilinizde yardım için (**yerel telefon ücreti karşılığında**) **1800 658 521** numaralı telefondan Ucuzluklar Bilgilendirme Hattı'nı arayın ve bir tercüman isteyin.

Tiếng Việt

Để được hỗ trợ bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị vui lòng gọi Đường dây Thông tin Chước giảm theo số **1800 658 521 (miễn phí)** và yêu cầu phiên dịch viên.

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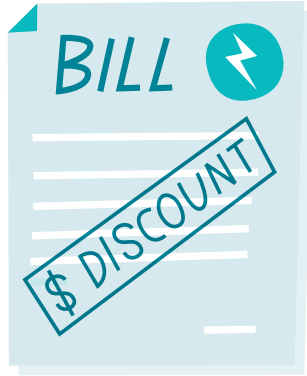
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# General information about concessions

What are concessions?

Concessions are discounts on services to help low-income Victorian households pay their bills.

Concessions are available for essential services – electricity, gas, water and council rates – and for other services such as health, education and public transport.

Concessions are given as a deduction on a bill or a discounted price.

Who is eligible for a concession?

Any person who holds an eligible concession card.

For most concessions, you will need to have one of these cards:

- Centrelink Health Care Card (cards issued in the name of a child are not eligible)
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Gold Card for all conditions.

See page 10 for pictures of concession cards.

Check the details for each concession to see if your card allows you to get a concession.

Usually to claim a concession you must be the account holder.

<p>I have a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card; can I get concessions with this card?</p>	<p>No. The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card is not eligible for concessions on electricity, gas, water or council rates.</p> <p>Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders receive discounts on Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) prescription medicines and other benefits.</p>
<p>I have a Victorian Seniors Card; can I get concessions with this card?</p>	<p>No. The Victorian Seniors Card is not eligible for concessions on electricity, gas, water or council rates.</p> <p>Seniors Card holders can access discounted public transport and a wide range of discounts from participating businesses.</p>
<p>How do I get a concession card?</p>	<p>Concession cards are issued by the Commonwealth Government.</p> <p>To apply for a concession card, contact Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs. See the Contacts section.</p>
<p>How do I apply for a concession?</p>	<p>Most concessions are given to you as a deduction on your bill. To receive a concession, you must contact the company that bills you and provide your concession details.</p> <p>For some concessions you will need to complete an application form.</p> <p>Check the details for each concession to see how to apply.</p>



I did not know I could apply for a concession. Can I receive a backdated concession?

Generally it is up to you to check if you can get a concession and apply for it.

You may be able to receive up to 12 months of backdated concessions. Contact your electricity or gas retailer, council or water corporation to ask about backdating.

I don't live in Victoria – can I apply for these concessions?

No. The concessions in this booklet are for Victorian residents only.

If you live in a different state, check with your state government to find out what concessions are available to you.

# Essential services concessions

This section describes the concessions available for essential services – electricity, gas, water and council rates.

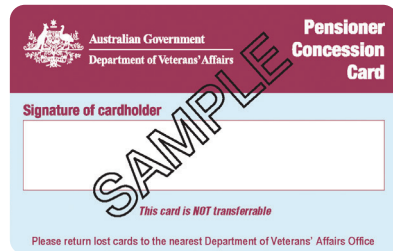
Eligible concession cards include:

## Centrelink Health Care Card

(holders of a Health Care Card for Carer Allowance and Foster Care issued in the name of a child are not eligible)



## Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card



## Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card



## Veterans' Affairs Gold Card for all conditions



Please note that not all concessions are available for all cards. Please check the details below to see if you are eligible.

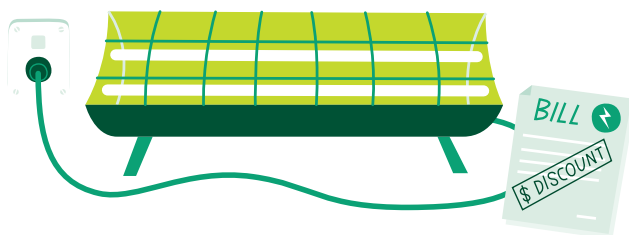


# Energy concessions

The following describes the concessions available on electricity and gas bills.

## Annual Electricity Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Domestic mains electricity usage and service costs. The concession is available year-round.
Who can apply for the concession?	An electricity account holder who has one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	<p>17.5% of electricity usage and service costs.</p> <p>The concession is calculated after retailer discounts and solar credits have been deducted.</p> <p>The concession does not apply to the first \$171.60 of the annual bill. This is calculated as a daily rate on each bill.</p> <p>Households with very high electricity bills (over \$2,973.00 in the year, starting 1 December 2020) need to apply for the <b>Excess Energy Concession</b> to continue to receive a concession on their bill.</p>



## Energy concessions

How do I apply for the concession?	<p>Phone your electricity retailer and give your concession card details over the phone.</p> <p>Your retailer will check your concession card details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.</p>
More information	<p>Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>
See also	<b>Excess Electricity Concession</b> below.

## Excess Electricity Concession

What does this concession apply to?	<p>Domestic mains electricity usage and service costs above \$2,973.00 for the annual period starting 1 December 2020. This amount is reviewed each year.</p>
Who can apply for the concession?	<p>An electricity account holder whose annual electricity costs are above \$2,973.00 and who holds one of the following eligible concession cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>





<p>How much is the concession?</p>	<p>17.5% of electricity usage and service costs.</p> <p>The concession is calculated after retailer discounts and solar credits have been deducted.</p>
<p>How do I apply for the concession?</p>	<p>Your electricity retailer will check if you need to apply for the Excess Electricity Concession and send you an application form.</p> <p>You must sign a declaration confirming that the electricity used at your address is for domestic purposes, that no commercial business is being conducted at the address, and that the electricity is not being used for an illegal purpose.</p> <p>After you have signed and dated the form, send it to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing at the address listed on the form.</p> <p>The department will check your eligibility and advise your retailer. Your retailer will calculate the Excess Electricity Concession and apply the concession to your next bill.</p>
<p>My bills are high due to medical needs – do I need to apply?</p>	<p>If you receive the <b>Life Support Concession</b> (page 16), or the <b>Medical Cooling Concession</b> (page 18), you do not need to complete an application form to receive the excess electricity concession. Your electricity retailer will apply the concession to your account.</p>
<p>More information</p>	<p>Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>

## Controlled Load Electricity Concession

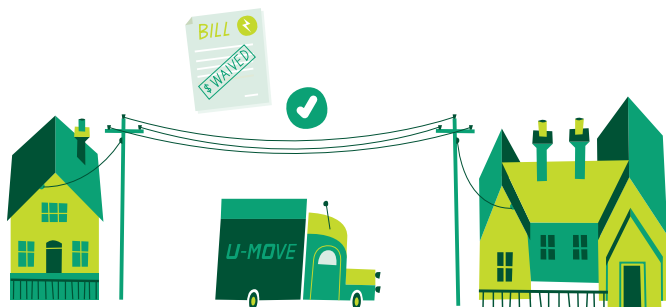
What does this concession apply to?	<p>Controlled load usage charges on domestic mains electricity.</p> <p>Controlled load charges apply to separately metered electric hot water or slab heating which is measured via a dual element electricity meter or dual element smart meter. These tariffs are usually shown as 'controlled load' or 'dedicated circuit' tariffs.</p> <p>The concession is only available to households with an eligible dual element electricity meter or dual element smart meter.</p>
Who can apply for the concession?	<p>An electricity account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	<p>13% of controlled load electricity costs.</p>
How do I apply for the concession?	<p>Your retailer will automatically give you the concession if you are eligible and you have provided your concession details.</p> <p>To check if you should be receiving this concession, phone your electricity retailer.</p>
More information	<p>Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>



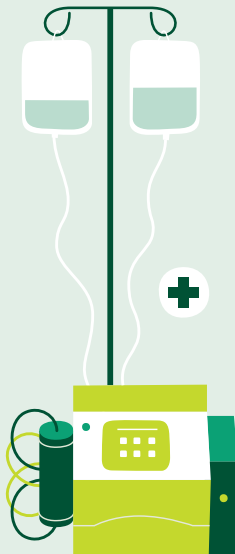


## Electricity Transfer Fee Waiver

What does this concession apply to?	The transfer fee that is charged by electricity retailers when account holders move house.
Who can apply for the concession?	An electricity account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	The full transfer fee is waived.
How do I apply for the concession?	Your retailer will automatically give you the concession if you are eligible and you have provided your concession details.  To check if you should be receiving this concession, phone your electricity retailer.
More information	Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> .  A factsheet about this concession is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <b>services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</b> .



## Life Support Concession

<p>What does this concession apply to?</p>	<p>Mains domestic electricity accounts.</p> <p>Mains water accounts (for haemodialysis machines only).</p>
<p>Who can apply for the concession?</p>	<p>An electricity or water account holder who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• holds an eligible concession card (Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card, Veterans' Affairs Gold Card) <b>and</b></li><li>• uses an eligible life support machine <b>or</b></li><li>• has a household member who uses an eligible life support machine.</li></ul>
<p>What machines are eligible for the concession?</p>	<p>Approved machines are those that use at least 1,880 kilowatt hours of electricity annually. Machines already approved are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• intermittent peritoneal dialysis machines (electricity)</li><li>• oxygen concentrators (electricity)</li><li>• haemodialysis machines (electricity and water).</li></ul> <p>Applications for other machines must be approved by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.</p> <p>Most continuous positive airways pressure (CPAP) machines do not meet the 1,880 kilowatt hour threshold.</p> 



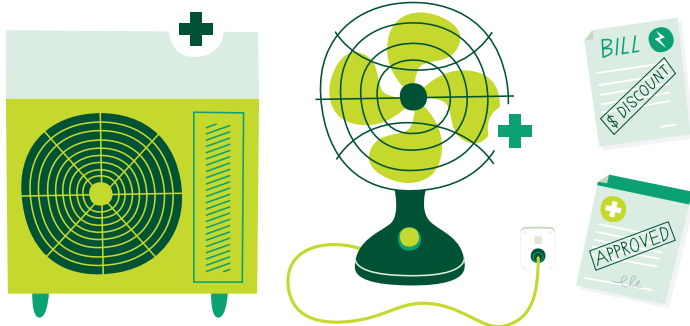
How much is the concession?	<p>The electricity discount is the cost of 1,880 kilowatt hours (470 kilowatt hours per quarter) of electricity each year, calculated using the general domestic tariff of your retailer.</p> <p>The water discount for haemodialysis users is the cost of 168 kilolitres (42 kilolitres per quarter) of water each year.</p>
How do I apply for the concession?	<p>For an application form phone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• your electricity retailer or water corporation <b>or</b></li><li>• the hospital supplying the life support machine <b>or</b></li><li>• the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</li></ul> <p>The application form needs to be completed and signed by your doctor, nurse or hospital social worker confirming your use of a life support machine. Once completed, send the form to your electricity retailer and/or water corporation.</p> <p>Your electricity retailer and/or water corporation will check your concession card details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.</p>
More information	<p>Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <b><a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a></b>.</p>
See also	<b>Essential Medical Equipment Payment</b> (page 47).

### Medical Cooling Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Mains domestic electricity usage and service costs between 1 November and 30 April.
Who can apply for the concession?	An electricity account holder who holds an eligible concession card (Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card, Veterans' Affairs Gold Card) <b>and</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• has a medical condition that affects their body's ability to self-regulate temperature <b>or</b></li><li>• has a household member with such a medical condition.</li></ul>
What medical conditions are eligible for the concession?	Pre-approved conditions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• multiple sclerosis</li><li>• lymphoedema</li><li>• Parkinson's disease</li><li>• fibromyalgia</li><li>• post-polio syndrome/poliomyelitis</li><li>• motor neurone disease.</li></ul> Applications for other conditions must be approved by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.
How much is the concession?	17.5% of electricity usage and service costs between 1 November and 30 April.  During this period the Medical Cooling Concession is given in addition to the <b>Annual Electricity Concession</b> (page 11).



<p>How do I apply for the concession?</p>	<p>For an application form phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>The application form needs to be completed and signed by your doctor confirming your medical condition. If your condition is one of the pre-approved conditions, send the form to your retailer.</p> <p>For any other condition, send your form to the Department of Fairness, Families and Housing for assessment.</p> <p>Your retailer will check your concession card details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.</p>
<p>More information</p>	<p>Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <b>services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</b>.</p>
<p>See also</p>	<p><b>Essential Medical Equipment Payment</b> (page 47).</p>



### Service to Property Charge Concession

What does this concession apply to?	The service charge on mains domestic electricity bills with very low electricity use.
Who can apply for the concession?	An electricity account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	If the electricity use on a bill is lower than the service charge, the service charge is reduced to the cost of the electricity used.  The concession is based on your usage cost before any solar credits are deducted.
How do I apply for the concession?	The retailer will automatically give you the concession if you are eligible and you have provided your concession details.  To check if you should be receiving this concession, phone your electricity retailer.
More information	Phone your electricity retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> .  A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a> .

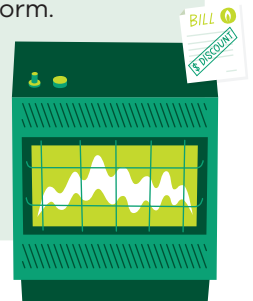


## Winter Gas Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Domestic mains gas usage and service costs. The concession is available over the winter period of 1 May to 31 October each year.
Who can apply for the concession?	A gas account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	17.5% of gas usage and service costs. The concession is calculated after retailer discounts are deducted. The concession does not apply to the first \$62.40 of the six-month winter period bills. This is calculated as a daily rate on each bill. Households with very high bills (over \$1,644.00 in the period from 1 May to 31 October 2021) will need to apply for the <b>Excess Gas Concession</b> referred to in this document, to continue to receive a concession on their bill.
How do I apply for the concession?	Phone your gas retailer and give your concession card details over the phone. Your retailer will check your concession card details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.
More information	Phone your gas retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> . A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a> .
See also	<b>Excess Gas Concession</b> (page 22).

## Excess Gas Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Domestic mains gas usage and service costs above \$1,644.00 in the period from 1 May to 31 October 2021.
Who can apply for the concession?	A gas account holder whose winter gas costs are above \$1,644.00 and who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	17.5% of gas usage and service costs. The concession is calculated after retailer discounts are deducted.
How do I apply for the concession?	<p>Your gas retailer will check if you need to apply for the Excess Gas Concession and send you an application form.</p> <p>You must sign a declaration confirming that the gas used at your address is for domestic purposes, that no commercial business is being conducted at the address, and that the gas is not being used for an illegal purpose.</p> <p>After you have signed and dated the form, send it to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing at the address listed on the form.</p> <p>The department will check your eligibility and advise your retailer. Your retailer will calculate the Excess Gas Concession and apply the concession to your next bill.</p>



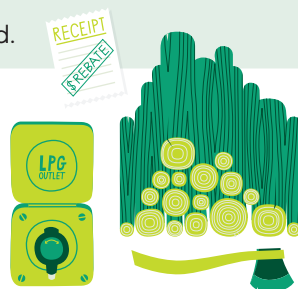




My bills are high due to my medical needs – do I need to apply?	If you receive the <b>Life Support Concession</b> (page 16), or the <b>Medical Cooling Concession</b> (page 18), you will be automatically eligible to receive the Excess Gas Concession after submitting a completed application form.
More information	Phone your gas retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> .  A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a> .

## Non-Mains Energy Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Non-mains sources of energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)</li><li>• firewood for domestic heating, cooking or hot water</li><li>• heating oil</li><li>• electricity accessed via an embedded network</li><li>• generator fuel.</li></ul>
Who can apply for the concession?	An account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>



## Energy concessions

Are there other requirements for the concession?	Special conditions apply for firewood and generator fuel concessions. See the application form for more details.
How much is the concession?	<p>The concession is paid annually based on the amount paid for each energy type in that year.</p> <p>The rebate amounts for the 2021 calendar year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$52 for spending from \$100 to \$302.99</li><li>• \$160 for spending from \$303 to \$911.99</li><li>• \$265 for spending from \$912 to \$1,516.99</li><li>• \$379 for spending from \$1,517 to \$2,165.99</li><li>• \$485 for spending from \$2,166 to \$2,770.99</li><li>• \$589 for spending \$2,771 and above.</li></ul> <p>A separate rebate is paid for each energy type used.</p>
How do I apply for the concession?	<p>Application forms may be available from LPG suppliers, local councils, caravan park proprietors or by phoning the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>Applications for each year close on 31 December of the following year.</p> <p>Applications must include copies of paid invoices or receipts.</p> <p>Department staff will check your concession card details with Centrelink and provide the concession as a rebate.</p>
More information	<p>Phone the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>



# Rates and property concessions

The following describes the concessions available on bills related to property and council rates.

## Municipal Rates Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Council rates (on the cardholder's principal residence).
Who can apply for the concession?	A ratepayer who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card (given for TPI, War Widow, EDA or POW).</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	50% deduction on council rates up to a yearly maximum of \$247.00 for 2021–22.

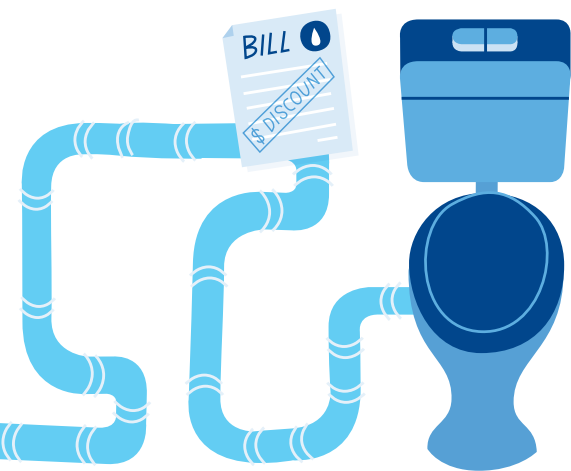


<p>How do I apply for the concession?</p>	<p><b>Pensioners and holders of Veterans' Affairs Gold Cards given for TPI or War Widow</b></p> <p>Phone your local council for an application form. Complete the form and send it to your local council.</p> <p>Your local council will check your concession card details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.</p> <p><b>Holders of Veterans' Affairs Gold Cards given for EDA or POW</b></p> <p>Phone the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> for an application form. Complete the form and send it to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing at the address listed on the form.</p> <p>The department will check your concession card details with Centrelink and provide the concession as a rebate.</p>
<p>More information</p>	<p>Phone your council or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <b><a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a></b>.</p>



## Fire Services Property Levy Concession

What does this concession apply to?	The Fire Services Property Levy on your residential council rates notice.
Who can apply for the concession?	A ratepayer who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card (given for TPI, War Widow, EDA or POW).</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	\$50
How do I apply for the concession?	<p>Property owners already receiving the Municipal Rates Concession will automatically receive a concession on their Fire Services Property Levy assessment.</p> <p>Eligible cardholders should check their rates notice and contact their local council with any queries. A list of Victorian councils is available at the Know Your Council website <b><a href="http://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils">knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils</a></b>.</p>
More information	For more information about the Fires Services Property Levy visit the fire levy website <b><a href="http://www.firelevy.vic.gov.au">www.firelevy.vic.gov.au</a></b> .





# Water concessions

The following describes the concessions available on water bills.

## Water and Sewerage Concession

What does this concession apply to?	Water and sewerage charges.
Who can apply for the concession?	A water account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	50% deduction on water and sewerage charges up to a yearly maximum of \$345.50 for 2021–22.  If you are only billed for a single service, for example, water only, you will receive 50% off water charges up to a maximum of \$172.75.
How do I apply for the concession?	Phone your water corporation to apply.  Your water corporation will check your concession card details with Centrelink and apply the concession to your bill.
More information	Phone your water corporation or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> .  A factsheet about this concession, including calculations and examples, is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a> .

## Non-Mains Water Concession

What does this concession apply to?	<p>Non-mains water purchased for domestic use, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• carted water for rainwater tanks</li><li>• water bought via a billing agent or water cooperative</li><li>• water bought via an embedded network.</li></ul>
Who can apply for the concession?	<p>An account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
How much is the concession?	<p>Rebate amounts for 2021-22 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$129 for spending from \$180 to \$517.99</li><li>• \$258 for spending from \$518 to \$1,036.99</li><li>• \$387 for spending \$1037 and above.</li></ul>
How do I apply for the concession?	<p>Application forms are available from water carters or by phoning the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>Applications for each year will close on 30 June of the following year.</p> <p>Applications must include copies of paid invoices or receipts.</p> <p>Department staff will check your concession card details with Centrelink and provide the concession as a rebate.</p>
More information	<p>Phone the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this concession is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>



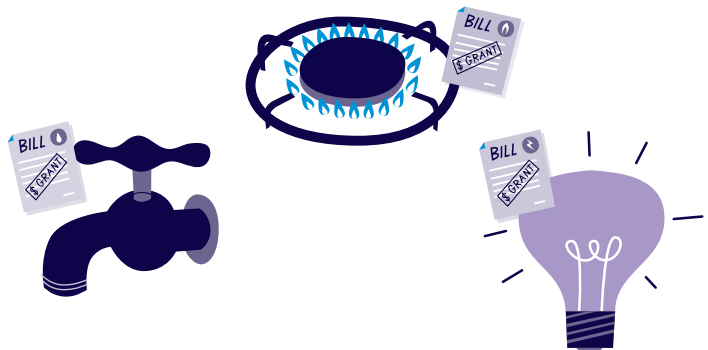


# Hardship

The following describes programs available to people during times of financial difficulty.

## Utility Relief Grant Scheme (Mains)

What is the grant?	The grant provides help to pay a mains electricity, gas or water bill that is overdue due to a temporary financial crisis.
Who can apply for the grant?	<p>An account holder who has one of the following eligible concession cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul> <p>If you don't have one of these cards but are part of a low-income household, you may also be able to apply. Your retailer will ask you some questions to check if you are eligible before issuing a form.</p> <p>The grant is available to renters and homeowners.</p>

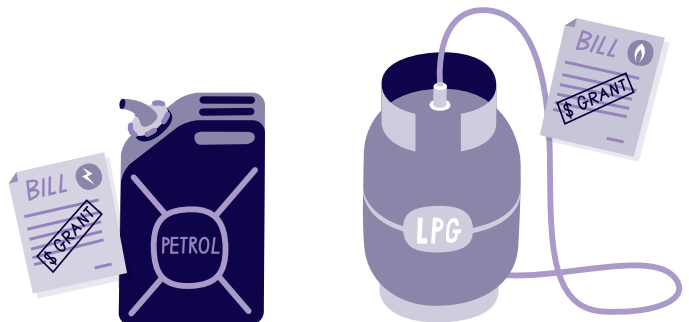


<p>What are the criteria for the grant?</p>	<p>You must show that you have no way of paying the account without assistance, <b>and</b></p> <p>You must meet <b>one</b> of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You or someone in your house has experienced family violence.</li><li>• You have had a recent decrease in income, for example, lost your job.</li><li>• You have had high unexpected costs for essential items.</li><li>• The cost of shelter is more than 30% of your household income.</li></ul>
<p>How much is the grant?</p>	<p>The amount of the grant is based on the amount you owe at the time of application. It is also based on the reasons you have given for applying in your application form.</p> <p>You can receive a maximum of \$650 on each utility type in a two-year period (or \$1,300 for households with a single source of energy (e.g. electricity only)).</p> <p>You can apply for separate grants for each utility (electricity, gas and water).</p>
<p>How do I apply for the grant?</p>	<p>Phone your electricity, gas or water retailer to request an application.</p> <p>Your retailer will ask you some preliminary questions before starting your application.</p> <p>The application can be completed online, or your retailer will post you a paper form to complete. A friend, support worker or financial counsellor can help you complete the application.</p>
<p>More information</p>	<p>Phone your electricity, gas or water retailer or the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this grant is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>



## Utility Relief Grant Scheme (Non-Mains)

<p>What is the grant?</p>	<p>The grant provides help to pay a non-mains energy or water bill that is overdue due to a temporary financial crisis.</p> <p>This can include bills for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)</li><li>• diesel and petrol (for a generator)</li><li>• heating oil</li><li>• firewood</li><li>• metered electricity from an embedded network</li><li>• carted water</li><li>• septic tank cleaning (for homeowners only).</li></ul>
<p>Who can apply for the grant?</p>	<p>An account holder who holds one of the following eligible concession cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul> <p>If you don't have one of these cards but you are on a very low income, you may also be able to apply. We will ask you some questions to check if you are eligible before issuing a form.</p> <p>The grant is available to renters and homeowners.</p>



## Hardship

<p>What are the criteria for the grant?</p>	<p>You must show that you have no way of paying your energy or septic tank cleaning account without assistance, <b>and</b></p> <p>You must meet <b>one</b> of the three following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You or someone in your house has experienced family violence.</li><li>• You have had a recent decrease in income, for example, lost your job.</li><li>• You have had high unexpected costs for essential items.</li><li>• The cost of shelter is more than 30% of your household income.</li></ul>
<p>How much is the grant?</p>	<p>The amount of the grant is based on the amount you owe at the time of application. It is also based on the reasons you have given for applying in your application form.</p> <p>You can receive a maximum of \$650 on each utility type or septic tank cleaning service in a two-year period.</p> <p>You may also be able to apply if you do not currently owe on a bill but will not be able to afford your next bill.</p>
<p>How do I apply for the grant?</p>	<p>Phone the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p>
<p>More information</p>	<p>Phone the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b>.</p> <p>A factsheet about this grant is available at Services – Concessions and benefits <a href="https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>.</p>



## Water and Sewerage Connection Scheme

What is the Water and Sewerage Connection Scheme?	The grant provides help to pay for connection to a mains water and sewerage service when you have been instructed to connect by your water authority.
How much is the grant?	The grant covers the full cost of connection.
Who can apply for the grant?	Homeowners who have received a 'notice to connect' compulsory order, who hold an eligible concession card and who have no savings to cover the cost of connection.
What cards are eligible for the grant?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pensioner Concession Card</li><li>• Health Care Card</li><li>• Veterans' Affairs Gold Card.</li></ul>
What are the criteria for the grant?	You must show that you have no way of paying for the connection without assistance, <b>and</b> You must have received a 'notice to connect' compulsory order from your water corporation.
How often can I claim a grant?	The grant can only be claimed once.

## Hardship

How do I apply for the grant?	Your water corporation will provide cardholders with an application form when issuing a 'notice to connect' compulsory order.
More information	Phone the Concessions Information Line on <b>1800 658 521</b> .





# Other concessions and services

This section provides information about other State and Commonwealth concessions and services available to eligible concession cardholders. For the full details of these programs, including how to apply, use the contact information provided.

## Communication

### Mail

#### Mail hold and redirection

Australia Post provides a reduced fee for redirecting mail to a new mailing address for up to 12 months for eligible cardholders.

#### Postage stamps

Australia Post provides concession stamps for mail within Australia.

#### For more information and to apply

- Go to your local Post Office.
- Phone Australia Post Customer Service on **13 13 18**.
- Visit the Australia Post website **[auspost.com.au](https://auspost.com.au)**.

### Telephone allowance

The telephone allowance helps with the cost of having a phone and internet service in your home. Eligibility for the telephone allowance is considered when you apply for a Centrelink benefit and the allowance is included with your Centrelink payment.

#### For more information and to apply

- Phone Centrelink on **13 27 17**.
- Visit the Services Australia – Telephone Allowance webpage **[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/telephone-allowance](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/telephone-allowance)**.

# Education

## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

This fund helps with paying for eligible students to attend school camps, sports and excursions.

### For more information and to apply

- Phone the CSEF helpdesk on **1800 060 970** (toll free).
- Get an application form from the school or from the CSEF webpage [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx).

## Centre for Adult Education (CAE) fees

The CAE provides concessions on course fees to eligible cardholders. The level of the concession depends on the course.

### For more information and to apply

- Phone the CAE on **03 9652 0611**.
- Visit the CAE website [www.cae.edu.au](http://www.cae.edu.au).

## Students with Disabilities Transport Program

This allowance helps eligible students at specialist schools with the cost of travel to school.

### For more information and how to apply

- Contact your school office for details and an application form.
- Phone the Department of Education and Training on **1800 060 970**.
- Visit the Department of Education and Training – Getting to and from school for students with a disability webpage [www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-school-transport.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/additional-needs/Pages/disability-school-transport.aspx).





## Kindergarten

### Early Start Kindergarten

This grant gives eligible three-year-old children 15 hours a week at a funded kindergarten program free of charge or at minimal cost.

To be eligible, children must be three years old by 30 April in the year they start kindergarten and be:

- from a refugee or asylum seeker background **or**
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person **or**
- from a family that has had contact with child protection.

Children who have used Early Start Kindergarten can get free or low cost four-year-old kindergarten as well.

#### **For more information and to apply**

- Contact your local kindergarten.
- Phone the Education Information and Referral Service on **1800 809 834**.
- Visit the Department of Education and Training – Child care and kindergarten webpage **[www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten)**.

Services that are aware of eligible children can phone their department regional office at the number listed on the Department of Education and Training website **[www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten)**.

### Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

This subsidy gives eligible children 15 hours a week at a funded kindergarten program for free or at low cost.

To be eligible, children must be aged at least four years by 30 April or three years by 30 April if they are in a local government funded three-year-old kindergarten, and:

- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person **or**
- hold, or have a parent or guardian who holds, an eligible concession card or humanitarian visa **or**
- be identified on their birth certificate as being a multiple birth child (triplets or more).

#### For more information and to apply

- If your family meets the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy eligibility criteria, tell your education and care service that you are eligible when you enrol your child or at any time during the year.
- Visit the Department of Education and Training – Child care and kindergarten webpage [www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/child-care-kindergarten).

### Technical and Further Education (TAFE) fees

TAFE institutes may offer concessions on enrolment fees for eligible cardholders and their dependent spouses. The level of the concession depends on the course.

#### For more information and to apply

- Phone the Technical and Training Line on **13 18 23**.
- Visit Department of Education and Training – Training webpage [www.education.vic.gov.au/training](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/training).



## Energy

### Energy Supplement

The Energy Supplement provides ongoing assistance to help eligible households pay their energy bills. It is automatically paid with regular government payments to holders of eligible cards. Eligible pensioners and income support recipients will automatically receive the Energy Supplement with their payment from Centrelink or Veterans' Affairs.

#### For more information and to apply

- Visit the Services Australia Energy Supplement webpage [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/energy-supplement](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/energy-supplement).
- If you are a member of the defence or veterans community, visit the Department of Veterans' Affairs – Household assistance webpage [www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/home-and-care/household-assistance](http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/home-and-care/household-assistance) or phone on **13 32 54** or **1800 555 254** (country callers).

## Finance

### National Debt Helpline

The National Debt Helpline provides free, confidential and independent information for Victorians experiencing financial difficulty. Their phone counselling service can provide advice about managing debts and expenses, handling debt collectors and negotiating with creditors, mortgages and tenants' rights, and loss of employment.

The website has online tools to help people organise their budgets, credit cards and superannuation. The helpline also gives referrals to other financial counselling services.

#### For more information and to apply

- Phone the National Debt Helpline on **1800 007 007**.
- Visit the National Debt Helpline website [ndh.org.au](http://ndh.org.au).

### **Good Money financial services**

Good Money delivers financial services through four community finance stores in Victoria. Good Money offers safe, affordable and responsible financial services for people on low incomes. Good Money can help you arrange a No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) or a low interest StepUp loan, and provide referrals to financial counselling services to help you manage debt or savings. Note that the loans are not for cash. If your loan application is successful, Good Money would make a payment for the items (or services) for you.

Good Money is a partnership between Good Shepherd Microfinance, the Victorian Government and National Australia Bank (NAB).



## Contact or apply:

Visit the Good Money website [goodmoney.com.au](https://goodmoney.com.au).

### Geelong

104 Moorabool Street (Opposite Market Square),  
Geelong Victoria 3220

Loans: **1300 770 550**

Financial counselling: **1300 148 028**

Email: [geelong@goodmoney.com.au](mailto:geelong@goodmoney.com.au)

Monday–Friday 9:30am–4:30pm

### Collingwood

340 Smith Street (Cnr Johnston St),  
Collingwood Victoria 3066

Loans: **1300 770 550**

Financial counselling: **1300 148 028**

Email: [collingwood@goodmoney.com.au](mailto:collingwood@goodmoney.com.au)

Monday–Friday 9:30am–4:30pm

### Dandenong

250 Lonsdale Street (near Dandenong Arcade),  
Dandenong Victoria 3175

Loans: **1300 770 550**

Financial counselling: **1300 148 028**

Email: [dandenong@goodmoney.com.au](mailto:dandenong@goodmoney.com.au)

Monday–Friday 9:30am–4:30pm

### Morwell

10 Tarwin Street  
Morwell Victoria 3840

Loans: **1300 770 550**

Financial counselling: **1300 148 028**

Email: [morwell@goodmoney.com.au](mailto:morwell@goodmoney.com.au)

Monday–Friday 9:30am–4:30pm

### No-Interest Loan Scheme

Good Shepherd Microfinance offers affordable financial programs for people on low incomes, in partnership with local community organisations.

The No-Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) provides access to fair and safe credit (up to \$1,500) for the purchase of essential goods and services.

To be eligible for a loan, you must:

- have a Health Care Card/ Pensioner Concession Card or are on a low income (take home income of \$45,000 per year for individuals and \$60,000 per year for joint applicants)
- have lived at your current premises for more than three months and
- show a willingness and capacity to repay

Note that the loans are not for cash. If your loan application is successful, Good Shepherd Microfinance would make a payment for the items (or services) for you.

#### For more information and to apply

- Phone **13 NILS (13 64 57)** or visit the NILS website **[nils.com.au](http://nils.com.au)**.
- NILS is delivered through community organisations in 628 locations across Australia. Find your local provider on the Good Shepherd webpage **[goodshep.org.au/services-near-me](http://goodshep.org.au/services-near-me)**.

NILS is supported by the Australian and Victorian Governments and NAB.



## Health

### Ambulance travel

Concession cardholders are eligible for free emergency and clinically necessary road and air ambulance services anywhere in Australia.

The following people are eligible for free clinically necessary ambulance treatment and transport:

- Pensioner Concession Card holders (including dependent children listed on the card but excluding spouses)
- Health Care Card holders (excluding holders of a Health Care Card for Carer Allowance or Foster Care issued in the name of the child) and their dependents, including spouses listed on the card (in circumstances where the dependent is the patient)
- a child holding a current Child Disability Health Care Card (payment type CD) or Foster Care Health Care Card (payment type FO) but not their guardians/families as listed on the card
- a child under a Custody to Secretary Order including children on interim accommodation orders
- a child under a Guardianship to Secretary Order including children on interim accommodation orders.

Holders of Veterans' Affairs Gold or White Cards should check with Veterans' Affairs about their entitlements.

Please note that concession benefits only apply to **clinically necessary** transports.

#### For more information

- Phone Ambulance Victoria on **03 9840 3500**.
- Visit the Ambulance Victoria website **[www.ambulance.vic.gov.au](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au)**.

Where possible, please advise the ambulance paramedic of your concession card number. Your concession card must be valid on the date of services are received.

### Dental services

Dental Health Services Victoria provides emergency and general dental care for adult concession cardholders through public dental clinics in community health centres, rural hospitals and The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne.

For most clients of the service, a small fee is payable at each visit, up to a set maximum. More advanced dental treatments may be provided at fees above the maximum. Some groups qualify for free treatment.

General, denture or specialist care through the public dental system is available to the following people:

- people aged 18 years and over who are Health Care or Pensioner Concession cardholders or dependants of concession cardholders
- children and young people:
  - all children aged 0–12 years
  - young people aged 13–17 years who are Health Care or Pensioner Concession cardholders or dependants of concession cardholders
  - all children and young people up to 18 years of age who are in out-of-home care provided by child protection services in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.
- all youth justice clients in custodial care
- all refugees and asylum seekers.

Some groups of people eligible for public dental services may also have priority access to public dental care, including children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, homeless people and people at risk of homelessness, pregnant women, refugees and asylum seekers and clients of mental health, disability services and special development schools (on recommendation of a case manager).

#### For more information and to apply

- For dental emergencies, phone Dental Health Services Victoria on **1300 360 054** or visit the Dental Health Services Victoria website **[www.dhsv.org.au/our-services/find-dental-clinics/clinic-search](http://www.dhsv.org.au/our-services/find-dental-clinics/clinic-search)** to locate your closest community dental clinic.
- For general enquires, phone Dental Health Services Victoria on **03 9341 1000** or **1800 833 039** (country callers).
- Visit the Dental Health Services website **[www.dhsv.org.au](http://www.dhsv.org.au)**.





## Essential Medical Equipment Payment

The Essential Medical Equipment Payment is an annual payment for Australians with higher than average energy costs because they rely on essential medical equipment in their home.

This additional support is available to people (and their carers) who use essential medical equipment or who medically require heating/cooling at home to manage a disability or medical condition.

You can get this payment if you or the person you care for:

- need heating, cooling or certain equipment for your medical needs
- have a Commonwealth Concession Card
- pay for the energy running costs.

### For more information and to apply

- Visit the Services Australia – Essential Medical Equipment webpage [www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment](http://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment).
- Members of the defence or veterans community should phone the Department of Veterans' Affairs on **13 32 54** or **1800 555 254** (country callers) or visit Department of Veterans' Affairs – Household assistance webpage [www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/home-and-care/household-assistance](http://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/home-and-care/household-assistance).
- See also the **Life Support Concession** (page 16) and the **Medical Cooling Concession** (page 18) in this document.

## Eye care and glasses

The Victorian Eyecare Service (VES) is a statewide service managed by the Australian College of Optometry for people experiencing disadvantage or barriers to accessing eye care services.

VES is available for residents of Victoria who have:

- a current Health Care Card they have held for at least six months
- a current Pensioner Concession Card
- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
- child protection involvement for their care.

## Other concessions and services

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people may be eligible for further subsidies through the Victorian Aboriginal Spectacle subsidy Scheme.

VES focuses on people who experience difficulty accessing services, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, people in financial difficulty, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, people living in rural and remote areas, people living in public sector care, accommodation or youth justice facilities, and people with low levels of health literacy.

There is no restriction on access to VES based on residency status or visa type.

### For more information and to apply

- Phone the Australian College of Optometry on **03 9349 7400**.
- Visit the Australian College of Optometry website **[www.aco.org.au](http://www.aco.org.au)**.

## Hearing services

Hearing services are available for people who hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card (with hearing loss conditions) or who are receiving Sickness Allowance from Centrelink, and their dependents.

Free hearing services include a hearing assessment, information and support and, if needed, a hearing device.

### For more information or to apply

- Phone the Australian Government Department of Health on **1800 500 726** or **1800 500 496** (TTY).
- Visit the Hearing Services website **[www.hearingservices.gov.au](http://www.hearingservices.gov.au)**.



## Multi-Purpose Taxi Program

This program gives a 50 per cent discount on taxi fares for permanently and severely disabled people. The discount has a maximum amount per trip and an annual limit.

To be eligible for the program, you must be a permanent Victorian resident and have a disability that affects your ability to use public transport independently. There is a small fee to receive your card.

### For more information and to apply

- Phone Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria:
  - Phone **1800 638 802** (toll free) or **03 8683 0768**
  - TTY **1800 555 677**
  - Speak and listen **1800 555 727**.
- Visit Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria's website **[cpv.vic.gov.au](http://cpv.vic.gov.au)**.

## Patient travel subsidies

The Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) subsidises the travel and accommodation of rural Victorians, and an approved escort, who have to travel a long distance to receive approved medical specialist services.

### For more information and to apply

- For an application form, ask your local doctor or hospital social worker, or phone the VPTAS office on **1300 737 073**.
- Visit the Health – VPTAS webpage **[www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/rural-health/vptas-how-to-apply](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/rural-health/vptas-how-to-apply)**.

### Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

Eligible concession cardholders are entitled to a discount on most prescription medicines. Once you and your family reach the Safety Net threshold for the year (conditions apply), most medicines are free.

To receive the PBS medication at the discounted price, you must have one of these cards:

- Pensioner Concession Card
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Health Care Card
- Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold, Orange or White Card.

The co-payment amount (cost) of PBS medication is indexed on 1 January every year and information on the PBS co-payment amount is updated at the PBS website [www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home](http://www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home).

#### For more information and to apply

- Show your concession card at the pharmacy to receive the concessional rate.
- Visit the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme website at [www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home](http://www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home) or phone **1800 020 613**.

## Income

### Australian government assistance

The Australian Government provides a range of assistance payments for eligible households. To find out if you are eligible use Centrelink's Payment Finder tool [www.servicessaustralia.gov.au](http://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au).

For more information, visit the Centrelink website [www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink](http://www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink) or phone **13 24 68**.



## Single Income Family Supplement

The Single Income Family Supplement is a payment of up to \$300 for eligible single income families with an eligible child where the main income earner has a taxable income of between \$68,000 and \$150,000. You must have been eligible on 30 June 2017 and have stayed eligible since.

### For more information and to apply

- If you receive the Family Tax Benefit you do not need to apply for the Single income family supplement as the payment will be calculated based on circumstances known for family tax benefit purposes and will be included in your entitlement at the end of the year.
- If you don't receive family tax benefit, check if you are eligible on the Services Australia – Single Income Family Supplement webpage [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/single-income-family-supplement](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/single-income-family-supplement).

## Rates and property

### Stamp Duty Concession

This concession provides an exemption or partial exemption from stamp duty for cardholders purchasing property, up to a maximum purchase price. The concession is available once in a lifetime.

### For more information and to apply

- For an application form, phone the State Revenue Office on **13 21 61**.
- Visit the State Revenue Office website [www.sro.vic.gov.au/](http://www.sro.vic.gov.au/).

# Recreation

## Pet registration

Concessions are available on cat and dog registrations (concession availability and amount varies between councils).

Pensioner Concession cardholders are eligible for pet registration concessions and some councils also provide the concession to Health Care cardholders.

### For more information and to apply

- Phone your local council. Find contact details at the Know Your Council website [knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils](http://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils).

## Recreation facilities

Discounts are available to various recreation facilities such as the Zoo, National Gallery of Victoria, State galleries and Museum Victoria. Some private organisations such as cinemas and the Australian Football League (AFL) may also offer concessions on admission prices. Discounts are generally available to holders of Pensioner Concession and Health Care Cards and the Victorian Seniors Card.

### For more information and to apply

Contact the recreation facility.



## Recreational fishing licences

If you have one of the following concession cards, you do not have to buy a recreational fishing licence:

- Pensioner Concession Card (marked DSP, DSP Blind, AGE, AGE Blind, or CAR only)
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Gold Card (marked TPI)
- Victorian Seniors Card (or interstate equivalent).

You are also exempt if you are under the age of 18 or over the age of 70.

### For more information and to apply

- Visit the Victorian Fisheries Authority website [vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/fishing-licence](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/fishing-licence).

## Transport

### Motor vehicle registration fee

This concession provides a 50 per cent reduction on the motor vehicle registration fee component of your registration bill. The concession is available to holders of Pensioner Concession Cards, Health Care Cards and Veterans' Affairs Gold Cards. For holders of the Veterans' Affairs Gold Card given for TPI or EDA a 100 per cent reduction on the motor vehicle registration fee applies. The cardholder or their spouse must be the registered operator of the vehicle. There is a limit of one vehicle per concession card.

Eligible concession cardholders also have the option to pay for six months registration.

### For more information and to apply

- Phone on **13 11 71**.
- Visit the VicRoads website [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au) and search 'registration concessions'.

### Transport Accident Commission (TAC) insurance charge concession

This concession provides a 50 per cent reduction on the TAC charge in your registration bill. It is available to holders of Pensioner Concession Cards and Veterans' Affairs Gold Cards. There is a limit of one vehicle per concession card.

#### For more information and to apply

- Phone VicRoads on **13 11 71**.
- Visit the VicRoads website **[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)** and search 'registration concessions'.

### Public transport concessions

Many passengers may be eligible for concession fares on public transport. This includes eligible cardholders, children, asylum seekers and students. Those listed on a concession card as a dependant (including spouses) are not eligible for concession fares unless they have their own concession card or are under 17 years of age.

Concession fares are 50 per cent of the full fare.

#### For more information and to apply

For information about obtaining a concession myki for your concession type, contact Public Transport Victoria:

- Phone Public Transport Victoria on **1800 800 007**.
- Visit the Public Transport Victoria website **[www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au)**.

### Victorian Pensioner Free Travel Voucher

Each year, Centrelink issues Victorian Pensioners with a Victorian Pensioner Free Travel Voucher. These are sent in the mail. The voucher can be exchanged for a single Day Pass for metropolitan Melbourne or a return V/Line journey (within Victoria).





### For more information and to apply

- For information about using the Free Travel Voucher phone Public Transport Victoria on **1800 800 007** or visit the Public Transport Victoria website **[www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au)**.
- If you have lost or damaged your voucher, phone Centrelink on **13 23 00**.

## Victorian Seniors Card travel savings

The Seniors Card is available to permanent residents of Victoria aged 60 years or over who work less than 35 hours a week.

Cardholders can access discounted goods and services from participating businesses including travel, accommodation, hospitality, entertainment and leisure.

Seniors Card holders also receive the following discounts on public transport services:

- discounted daily fare on metropolitan Melbourne services
- free weekend travel in metropolitan Melbourne, regional town bus services and V/Line train services within the commuter rail services boundary
- concession fares on V/Line train and coach services
- off-peak free travel vouchers for a single Day Pass for metropolitan Melbourne or a return V/Line journey. Seniors off-peak free travel vouchers will not be replaced if lost or damaged. Exchange your free travel voucher at any V/Line or metropolitan staffed railway station.

### For more information and to apply

- To apply for the Victorian Seniors Card, phone the Seniors Card team on **1300 797 210** or visit the Victorian Seniors Card website **[www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au](http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au)**.
- Victorian Seniors Card applicants will be automatically sent a free Seniors myki.
- For more information about public transport fares, phone Public Transport Victoria on **1800 800 007** or visit the Public Transport Victoria website **[www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au)**.

# Contacts

## Victorian Government

Concessions Information Line <a href="http://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits">services.dffh.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits</a>	<b>1800 658 521</b>
Department of Health <a href="http://www.vic.gov.au/department-of-health">www.vic.gov.au/department-of-health</a>	<b>1300 650 172</b>  TTY users phone <b>133 677</b> then ask for <b>1300 650 172</b>  Speak and listen users phone <b>1300 555 727</b> then ask for <b>1300 650 172</b>
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing <a href="http://www.vic.gov.au/department-families-fairness-and-housing">www.vic.gov.au/department-families-fairness-and-housing</a>	<b>1300 475 170</b>  TTY users phone <b>133 677</b> then ask for <b>1300 475 170</b>  Speak and listen users phone <b>1300 555 727</b> then ask for <b>1300 475 170</b>
Housing <a href="http://www.housing.vic.gov.au">www.housing.vic.gov.au</a>	<b>13 11 72</b>
Victorian Carer Card <a href="http://www.carercard.vic.gov.au">www.carercard.vic.gov.au</a>	<b>1800 901 958</b>
Victorian Seniors Card <a href="http://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au">www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au</a>	<b>1300 797 210</b>



## Commonwealth Government

### Centrelink

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink)

ABSTUDY	1800 132 317
Complaints and feedback	1800 132 468
Disability, Sickness and Carers	13 27 17
Employment Services	13 28 50
Families	13 61 50
Multilingual Service	13 12 02
Older Australians	13 23 00
Youth and Student Services	13 24 90

### Department of Veterans' Affairs

[www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) 1800 555 254

## Emergency assistance

Emergency services (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	000
beyondblue Support Service	1300 224 636
Homelessness Crisis Line	1800 825 955
Lifeline Crisis Support	13 11 14
safe steps 24/7 Family Violence Response Services	1800 015 188
The St Vincent de Paul	03 9895 5800
The Salvation Army Crisis Service	1800 627 727
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667

## Health

Ambulance Victoria	<b>03 9840 3500</b>
Dental Health Services Victoria	<b>General</b> <b>03 9341 1000</b> <b>Country callers</b> <b>1800 833 039</b> <b>Emergency dental</b> <b>1300 360 054</b>
Hearing Services	<b>1800 500 496 (TTY)</b>
Medicare	<b>13 20 11</b>
NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme)	<b>1800 800 110</b>
Pharmaceuticals Benefits Scheme Information Line	<b>1800 020 613</b>
Victorian Eyecare Service	<b>03 9349 7400</b>
Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme	<b>1300 737 073</b>

## Interpreter and translating services

Translating and Interpreting Services	<b>13 14 50</b>
National Relay Service	<b>13 36 77</b>
Speech-to-speech Relay Service	<b>1300 555 727</b>

## Transport

Public Transport Victoria	<b>1800 800 007</b>
V/Line Information (Viclink)	<b>1800 800 007</b>
VicRoads	<b>13 11 71</b>



## Energy retailers

1st Energy	1300 426 594
AGL	13 12 45
Alinta Energy	13 37 02
Blue NRG	1300 599 888
CovaU	1300 689 866
Diamond Energy	1300 838 009
Dodo Power and Gas	13 DO DO (13 36 36)
Energy Australia	13 34 66
Elysian Energy	1300 671 799
Energy Locals	1300 693 637
GloBird Energy	13 34 56
Lumo Energy	1300 714 563
Momentum Energy	1300 662 778
Next Business Energy	1300 GO NEXT (1300 466 398)
Origin Energy	13 24 61
People Energy	1300 788 970
Powerclub	1300 294 459
Powerdirect	1300 307 966
Powershop	1800 462 668
Q Energy	1300 698 992
Red Energy	13 18 06
Simply Energy	13 88 08
Sumo Energy	13 88 60
Tango Energy	1800 010 648

## Water corporations

Barwon Water	1300 656 007
Central Highlands Water	1800 061 514
City West Water (now Greater Western Water)	13 44 99
Coliban Water	1300 363 200
East Gippsland Water	1800 671 841
Gippsland Water	1800 050 500
Goulburn Valley Water	1300 360 007
Greater Western Water	13 44 99
GWM (Grampians Wimmera Mallee) Water	1300 659 961
Lower Murray Water	03 5051 3400
North East Water	1300 361 633
South East Water	13 16 94
South Gippsland Water	1300 851 636
Wannon Water	1300 926 666
Western Water (now Greater Western Water)	13 44 99
Westernport Water	1300 720 711
Yarra Valley Water	1300 853 811

## Energy and Water Ombudsman

[www.ewov.com.au](http://www.ewov.com.au)

1800 500 509



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