

MEDICAL COOLING CONCESSIONS





The State Liberals have listened to community calls and will introduce a medical cooling concession if elected in 2014.

Isobel

Introduction

Intolerance to heat is a medical problem which can affect people suffering from a variety of conditions.

These conditions can include Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's, Poliomyelitis, Post-polio syndrome, Quadriplegia, Muscular Dystrophy, Motor Neurone Disease, Cerebral Palsy, Fibromyalgia, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Chronic Fatigue, Lymphoedema and Scleroderma.

People suffering from these types of medical conditions, who are often on low incomes, can require a constant cool environment, often forcing them to spend up to seven times more on air conditioning than the average South Australian.

As the cost of electricity rises, together with the cost of water and other household bills, there is a need to provide assistance to South Australians who require the use of an air conditioner to maintain a constant cool environment for their health.

Every other state except Tasmania provides a medical cooling concession to help people pay for their medical need for cooling.

At present there is no energy concession available in South Australia on medical grounds for people on low incomes.

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Liberal Policy

Medical Cooling Concessions

The *Keeping Cool Alliance*¹ has been formed to campaign for a medical cooling concession for South Australians with medically based heat intolerance.

According to MS Australia, South Australians with MS spent between \$627 and \$836 in 2009-10 operating their air conditioners to stay cool.

A Redmond Liberal Government will introduce a new concession to offset about one third of the cooling costs for those with medically based heat intolerance.

A Redmond Liberal Government will:

- Introduce a medical cooling concession of \$250 per annum on top of existing concessions, which would be indexed in line with residential electricity prices so its benefit is not eroded over time.
- Make the concession available to those suffering from the aforementioned conditions and other conditions that affect a person's ability to control his or her own body temperature.
- Require a doctor's approval on the 'medical need' for cooling.

According to MS Australia, approximately 1,300 South Australians with medically based heat intolerance would be eligible for the concession if they hold any of the following cards:

- Centrelink Health Care Card,
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card,
- Veterans Gold Card.

Taking into account a gradual uptake of the concession, this initiative has an estimated cost to the State Budget of \$1.3 million over four years.



Your view

on Medical Cooling Concessions

Isobel Redmond and the State Liberal Team value the input and views of all South Australians as we further develop our strong vision for South Australia's future.

More information on our plans for the State are available from our website or by contacting a member of the Liberal Team.

Contact Isobel Redmond, Leader of the Opposition:

- Online at www.isobelredmond.com.au;
- via email to liberal.opposition@parliament.sa.gov.au; or
- write to Isobel at Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000.

Alternatively contact Vickie Chapman MP, Shadow Minister for Families and Communities:

- Online at www.vickiechapman.com;
- via email to vickie.chapman@parliament.sa.gov.au; or
- write to Vickie at 357 Greenhill Rd, Toorak Gardens, SA 5065.

