



MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Minister for Energy
Minister for Corrective Services
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Special Minister of State

EMBARGOED: 00:00hours, 16 October 2009

NSW Government announces \$10 million Medical Energy Rebate

More than 10,000 people with medical conditions that mean they have difficulty controlling their core body temperature, are set to receive a new energy rebate from the NSW Government, announced Minister for Energy John Robertson today.

Mr Robertson said the \$10 million medical rebate would help people with Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's, spinal cord injuries and other medical conditions to pay the energy costs of heating and cooling their homes year round.

"The Government will provide a discount on quarterly energy bills for those patients who cannot live without temperature controls," Mr Robertson said.

"People with MS and Parkinson's for example often develop a condition known as Thermoregulatory Dysfunction which means that their body is unable to properly regulate their core temperature.

"The effects of excessive heat or cold for these people can be extreme – from general pain and discomfort, to hypothermia, heatstroke and even death.

"This rebate will help these people to pay their energy bills which are inflated by the costs of heating and air-conditioning their homes 365 days a year.

"The rebate is \$130 per annum indexed to CPI and represents an estimated \$10 million investment over five years – depending on uptake."

**Minister for Energy John Robertson to announce new Medical Energy Rebate
With representatives of the MS Society and Parkinson's NSW & MP for Drummoyne Angela D'Amore
11:30am, Friday 16 October
At the home of Multiple Sclerosis sufferer Jill Hodder
112 Wellbank St, Drummoyne**

The new Medical Energy Rebate is part of the NSW Government's five year Customer Assistance Package. The \$272 million Customer Assistance Package includes:

- an increase in the pensioner's energy rebate from \$112 to \$130 per annum, indexed to inflation;
- an increase in the vouchers available under the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance scheme to a maximum of \$480 per year, and;
- increases to the rebates for customers on life support at home to up to \$600 per annum.

"The NSW Government is investing \$272 million over five years in a broad reaching Customer Assistance Package to assist low income households to cope with the rising costs of electricity," said Mr Robertson.

"The Medical Energy Rebate announced today is in addition to the increases to the Pensioner Energy Rebate, payment vouchers and Life Support rebates that are already in place."

The Medical Energy Rebate will commence from January 1, 2010 and eligible customers will be able to apply from December this year by contacting their energy retailer directly. The rebate will then be automatically deducted from their quarterly power bills.

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