

What is the NSW Medical Energy Rebate?

The NSW Medical Energy Rebate was launched by the NSW Government in October 2009. It is a \$130 annual rebate for people living in NSW who are on low incomes and who suffer from heat intolerance (and/or cold intolerance).

The rebate will take effect on 1 January 2010 and will be in place for five years.

Who is eligible for the rebate?

There are two eligibility criteria:

1. The energy account holder (or other persons residing at the residence) must have proof of heat and/or cold intolerance. This requires a signed form by a medical practitioner who has been treating the patient for at least three months. While the summary information for this new rebate refers to 'thermoregulatory dysfunction', most people with MS do not have this problem in strict medical terms. However, the policy-makers in this instance have re-defined 'thermoregulatory dysfunction' to include people with MS whose symptoms increase in hot or cold weather.
2. The energy account holder must have one of the following concession cards:
 - Pensioner Concession Card;
 - Department of Veterans Affairs Gold Card; or
 - Health Care Card.

The Medical Energy Rebate can be received in addition to other assistance, such as the Energy Rebate, the Life Support Rebate and the Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) Scheme. The Medical Energy Rebate will also be made available to long-term residents of caravan parks.

How do I apply for the rebate?

Application forms will be available from electricity suppliers from December 2009. Successful applicants will receive the rebate as a discount on their energy bill, on a quarterly basis throughout the year. The exact amount of the rebate paid on each bill will depend on the number of days in each billing period.

How do I find out more?

- Details on the NSW Medical Energy Rebate can be found on the Q&A page at www.industry.nsw.gov.au/energy/customers/rebates/medical-energy-rebate-questions
 - The information above and more general information on NSW Energy Rebates can be found at www.industry.nsw.gov.au/energy/customers/rebates
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