



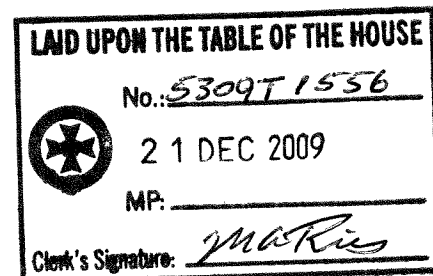
Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade

Your ref: Petitions
Our ref: CLLO/09069



Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 27 November 2009, forwarding petition number 1282-09 on the subject of 'Electricity rebate for home users of a life support machine'. I have considered the petition carefully and am pleased to provide my response.

Petition number 1282-09 requests the "House to support an electricity account rebate for continuous positive air pressure (CPAP) life support machine users who are registered members of Sleep Disorders Australia, Queensland Branch".

The Queensland Government recognises the difficulties some people with serious medical conditions can experience regarding the cost of operating life support systems. Following an investigation into establishing a scheme to assist people with this difficulty the Queensland Government introduced the Electricity Life Support Concession Scheme.

The Electricity Life Support Concession Scheme, which commenced on 1 July 1998, aims to assist low income, seriously ill people by providing a contribution towards the electricity costs of operating home-based life support machines (oxygen concentrators and kidney dialysis machines) supplied free of charge through Queensland Health.

The decision to limit the scheme to oxygen concentrators and kidney dialysis machines was based on clinical advice provided by medical officers of Queensland Health and the associated costs of operating the various life support machines.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the electricity costs of operating a CPAP machine is relatively small in contrast with an oxygen concentrator or dialysis machine. For example, CPAP machines would normally be used for approximately eight hours per day (while the user is sleeping) while many people are required to operate their oxygen concentrator up to 16-24 hours a day.

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I have attached a table illustrating the lower electricity consumption of sleep disorder machines in comparison to the additional costs of running an oxygen life support or kidney dialysis machine.

At this point in time, the Electricity Life Support Concession Scheme will remain focused on contributing towards the electricity costs of operating home-based oxygen concentrators and kidney dialysis machines that have been supplied free of charge though Queensland Health.

Should you receive any queries regarding my advice to you, the administrating agency of the Electricity Life Support Concession Scheme, the Department of Communities, will be pleased to assist. Ms Deborah Guy, Manager, Concession Services of Smart Service Queensland can be contacted on telephone 3247 9125.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Robertson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP

Att

19 DEC 2009

**Electricity Cost of Oxygen Concentrators,
Kidney Dialysis Machines and CPAP Machines**

Oxygen Concentrators (16 hours usage per day) Equivalent to 400 watts		Kidney Dialysis Machines (2.14 hours usage per day) Equivalent to 2000 watts (avg)		CPAP Machines (8 hours usage per day) Equivalent to 80 watts	
Electrical Running Cost (per quarter)	Concession 2009-10 (per quarter)	Electrical Running Cost (per quarter)	Concession 2009-10 (per quarter)	Electrical Running Cost (per quarter)	Concession 2009-10 (per quarter)
\$130	\$97.16	\$100	\$65.07	\$15	Nil