



Council Policy Manual

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY			
MEDICAL WASTE ASSISTANCE SCHEME POLICY		Policy No:	
		Adopted by Council:	20 August 2025
		Next review date:	August 2029
Executive Director:	Director Infrastructure & Development Works		
Responsible Officer:	Operations Manager		
Functional Area:	Waste		
Introduction and Background	An increasing number of residents are undergoing home-based treatments, particularly peritoneal and haemodialysis, due to clinical needs and the encouragement of home healthcare. These treatments generate significant volumes of non-hazardous waste, including dialysis solution bags, tubing, packaging, and gloves. At present, there is no formal support provided by this Council to help affected households manage the associated increase in general waste.		
Purpose and Objectives	The purpose of this policy is to provide equitable and compassionate waste management support to residents undergoing home-based medical treatment that generates excess non-hazardous waste. The policy outlines the criteria and process for accessing additional waste disposal support through either a second 120L general waste bin, transfer station fee waivers, or bin charge exemptions.		
Response to the Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020	Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This policy is in response to the following overarching governance principle/s of the Local Government Act 2020: the service performance principles (section 106)		
Definitions	In this Policy, the following terms have the meaning indicated: (a) Medical Waste (Non-Hazardous): Waste produced from home-based medical treatment that is not classified as clinical, hazardous, or infectious. This includes dialysis bags, tubing, packaging, gloves, and similar items. (b) Eligible Resident: A person residing within the municipality who		



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	meets the medical and administrative criteria set out in this policy. (c) Transfer Station Fee Waiver: The exemption of gate fees at Council-operated waste facilities for approved eligible residents, up to a capped annual value.
Policy Details	
1.	Scope This policy applies to permanent residents within the West Wimmera Shire Council municipality who are receiving home-based treatment for medical conditions that result in elevated general waste output.
2.	Policy Statement Council recognises the additional burden faced by residents undergoing medical treatment at home and is committed to supporting affected households through the following assistance options: (a) Provision of a second 120L general waste bin at no additional cost; or (b) Waiver of waste transfer station fees, capped at \$400 per financial year; or (c) Waiver of the annual waste charge for one additional bin, where private collection is arranged. Eligibility Criteria To be eligible for assistance under this policy, applicants must: (a) Be a permanent resident of the West Wimmera Shire Council municipality. (b) Be undergoing home-based treatment for a recognised medical condition (e.g. peritoneal dialysis, chemotherapy) that results in increased general waste. (c) Submit a valid application including a medical certificate or letter from a treating medical practitioner stating: i. The nature of the treatment ii. That the treatment is home-based iii. That the treatment produces a level of waste that cannot be managed by standard kerbside services. Applications and Assessment Process (a) Applications must be submitted via the approved Council form, with supporting documentation. (b) Applications will be reviewed by the Waste Services Team within 30 days of



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	receipt. (c) Successful applicants will receive written confirmation of the support provided and its duration. (d) Assistance is valid for 12 months and may be renewed upon reapplication and updated medical confirmation.
3.	Key principles and accountabilities Waste Services Team Responsible for application review, decision-making, record-keeping, and annual policy reporting. Eligible Residents Responsible for timely application, use of services in accordance with Council guideline, and reapplication if continued support is required.
4.	Related Acts, Policies and Documents • <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> • <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> • <i>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014</i> • <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004</i> • Social Procurement - A Guide for Victorian Local Government • Victorian Local Government Best Practice Procurement Guidelines • Waste Fees and Charges Schedule • Medical Waste Assistance Application Form • Information Privacy Policy • Environmental Policy • Fraud and Corruption Control Policy • Public Interest Disclosure Policy • Risk Management Policy • Employee Code of Conduct
5.	Review and Revocation Council reserves the right to: (a) Review and adjust the policy as needed based on budgetary considerations or operational review. (b) Revoke assistance where it is found that the conditions of eligibility are no longer met



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	or where false information has been provided. This policy will be reviewed every four years or as required due to legislative or operational changes.
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Policy Adopted:	Council Meeting 20 August 2025	SRV – Governance Policies and Procedures
Policy Reviewed:		