



## Trade Support Loans – at a glance

### What is a Trade Support Loans?

Apprentices and trainees working in *skills need areas* (see over) may be eligible for a loan of up to \$20,808 to help them cover the costs of living and learning. Trade Support Loans are flexible to meet your individual needs with payments hitting your nominated bank account every month. As an additional incentive, you'll get a 20 per cent discount on your loan when you successfully complete your apprenticeship. The loans are interest free but indexed annually with the consumer price index.

### How much can I borrow?

You have the choice of how much you borrow and what you spend your money on. You can opt-in and out of the loan at any time and can borrow a small amount, say \$1000, or take the full \$20,808 over four years. The loan amounts are highest in the early years of training while your apprentice wages are lower. Payments have annual limits of:

- \$8,323 in year one
- \$6,242 in year two
- \$4,162 in year three
- \$2,081 in year four.

### How do I get a Trade Support Loan?

To opt-in for a Trade Support Loan talk to your local Network Provider. They will take you (and your parent or guardian, if you're under 18) though the loan programme in detail and lodge the paperwork.

### How do I pay the loan back?

You will only start repaying your loan when you're earning a sustainable income of more than \$50 000.

Repayments are made through the tax system (like a university HELP loan). If you notify your employer they can make repayments automatically. For further information on eligibility and applying for a Trade Support Loan, contact your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider.

### What can I spend the loan on?

It's your loan so you choose how to spend the money – but remember you will have to pay the money back!

You could buy work gear like tools or boots, use the money to cover living expenses such as rent, phone bills and public transport, or even save up your payments to buy a second hand car or ute. If you're old enough to have a job you're old enough to manage a loan and the Government believes this programme will encourage financial responsibility.

### Who is eligible?

To be eligible you must be an apprentice or trainee studying (Cert III or IV qualification) in an area that leads to an occupation on the Trade Support Loans Priority List.

Apprentices or trainees studying agriculture or horticulture (Cert II, III or IV qualification), noting only horticulture students in regional and rural areas may also be eligible for the loan.

Full-time, part-time and school based apprentices and trainees can access the loan.

### Can existing apprentices get a loan?

Yes, apprentices are able to opt-in for a loan in line with the year of your apprenticeship.

## Current National Skills Needs List (NSNL)

- Airconditioning and Mechanical Services  
Plumber
- Airconditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Avionics)
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Mechanical)
- Arborist
- Automotive Electrician
- Baker
- Binder and Finisher
- Boat Builder and Repairer
- Bricklayer
- Butcher or Smallgoods Maker
- Cabinetmaker
- Carpenter
- Carpenter and Joiner
- Cook
- Diesel Motor Mechanic
- Drainer
- Electrical Linesworker
- Electrician (General)
- Electrician (Special class)
- Electronic Equipment Trades Worker
- Fibrous Plasterer
- Fitter (General)
- Fitter and Turner
- Fitter-Welder
- Floor Finisher
- Furniture Finisher
- Gasfitter
- Glazier
- Hairdresser
- Joiner
- Landscape Gardener
- Lift Mechanic
- Locksmith
- Metal Fabricator
- Metal Machinist (First class)
- Motor Mechanics (General)
- Motorcycle Mechanic
- Optical Mechanic
- Painting Trades Worker
- Panel Beater
- Pastrycook
- Picture Framer
- Plumber (General)
- Pressure Welder
- Printing Machinist
- Roof Plumber
- Roof Tiler
- Screen Printer
- Shearer
- Sheetmetal Trades Worker
- Signwriter
- Small Engine Mechanic
- Solid Plasterer
- Stonemason
- Telecommunications Linesworker
- Telecommunications Technician
- Toolmaker
- Upholsterer
- Vehicle Body Builder
- Vehicle Painter
- Vehicle Trimmer
- Wall and Floor Tiler
- Welder (First class)
- Wood Machinist

### **Additional skills priority list**

- Agriculture
- Horticulture (in rural areas only)