



Australian Government

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Trade Support Loans – Under 18s

Minors must read this fact sheet before applying for a Trade Support Loan (TSL). It should be read in conjunction with *Trade Support Loans – At a glance*

What is a Trade Support Loan (TSL)?

A TSL can help you pay for your everyday living expenses while you undertake your Australian Apprenticeship or Traineeship (collectively known as an ‘apprenticeship’). It is an interest-free government funded loan that is paid in monthly instalments for up to six months at a time. Your debt is indexed annually and you will get a 20 per cent discount on your debt when you have successfully completed your apprenticeship.

There are no age restrictions for applying for a loan and it is your choice to take out a loan based on your personal circumstances. If you are under 18 years of age, you are encouraged to seek acknowledgment from your parent or guardian that you are fully aware of the commitment into which they are entering.

What are my responsibilities when taking out a Trade Support Loan?

Taking out a TSL is a serious financial responsibility as it involves borrowing money and paying it back over time. It is your responsibility to be aware of your obligations when taking on the TSL and the requirement to pay it back.

Before you apply for a TSL, it is advised that you consider your current circumstances to see exactly where your money goes now and how much you could afford in repayments if you were to meet the income repayment threshold. It is important to think about how your circumstances may change in the future, for example changing jobs or moving out of home.

It is recommended that you further explore available options and assess whether taking out a TSL is the best option for you.

Information to help you make a decision and identify the responsibilities involved in taking out a TSL is available on the [MoneySmart website](#). You are strongly encouraged to view the information on this website to ensure you are fully aware of your responsibilities.



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How do I repay a Trade Support Loan?

Your TSL needs to be repaid through the tax system once your income reaches the repayment threshold.

The amount that must be repaid each year is a percentage of your income. The percentage increases as your income increases: The more you earn, the higher your repayment will be. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will calculate your compulsory repayment for the year and include it on your income tax notice of assessment.

The amount that must be repaid is adjusted every year by the ATO to reflect the changes to the cost of living (in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI)). Indexation will increase the amount of money you will have to pay back.

In addition to compulsory repayments, you can make voluntary repayments any time and for any amount. These repayments are not refundable and there are no discounts or penalties for making a voluntary repayment.

Further Information

For further information on eligibility and applying for TSL, contact your [Australian Apprenticeships Support Network Provider](#).