



Australian Government

A U S T R A L I A N  
A P P R E N T I C E S H I P S

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## New Trade Support Loans repayment laws

New laws for the repayment of Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) and Trade Support Loan (TSL) debt are now in force. Until now, people who took out a loan and moved overseas did not have to repay their debt as long as they remained offshore.

From 1 January 2016, people with a HELP or TSL debt who leave Australia and intend to be overseas for more than six months, or who have already been overseas for six months, will be required to register their details with the Australian Taxation Office.

From 1 July 2017, people overseas who have a HELP or TSL debt will be obliged to make compulsory repayments on their loan if they earn above the repayment income. For the 2015–16 financial year, this threshold is \$54,126.

The incentives for apprentices to complete their qualification still remain – a 20 per cent discount will be applied to a loan if they have successfully completed their qualification.

Ensuring that apprentices and students are aware of their obligations before they take out a loan is important. Apprentices, particularly those under the age of 18, need to be aware of the financial ramifications of taking out the loan.

Recovering student and apprentice loan debt from overseas residents makes the system fairer for everyone, and will help improve the sustainability of Australia's income-contingent student loan system.

### WORKING TOGETHER

The Department of Education and Training, the Australian Taxation Office and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection will share data to support overseas TSL debt recovery arrangements. The Government is also considering entering into debt recovery arrangements with the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

### A FAIRER SYSTEM FOR ALL

Ensuring that people living overseas and earning above the minimum repayment threshold repay their debt will help make these loan programmes sustainable, and also fairer for everyone.

For more information about Trade Support Loans visit [www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/content/trade-support-loans](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/content/trade-support-loans).

For information about how to register for *myGov* visit [ATO](#).

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