



MEDIA RELEASE

THE COALITION'S POLICY TO SUPPORT

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If elected, a Coalition government will help apprentices to complete their training by providing interest-free *Trade Support Loans* of up to \$20,000.

Click here to read our policy.

Australian apprenticeship completion rates are far too low – one in two do not complete their apprenticeship.

Australia's future productivity and competitiveness depend on a skilled workforce. This policy will help lift apprenticeship completion rates, build a skilled workforce and strengthen the economy.

Our *Trade Support Loans* will be repayable at the same thresholds as FEEL university students, so apprentices do not have to repay any money until they have a sustainable income.

Apprentices who successfully complete their apprenticeships will receive a 20 per cent discount on their *Trade Support Loans*.

All too often, young apprentices do not complete their training because they cannot afford the costs associated with undertaking an apprenticeship.

The *Trade Support Loans* will specifically target occupations on the National Skills List such as plumbers, diesel mechanics, electricians and fitters.

The loans will be spread over the four years of an apprenticeship, diminishing over time so that maximum support is provided in the initial years when the apprentice is most in need.

This capped amount of \$20,000 will be split into yearly amounts of \$8,000 (first year), \$6,000 (second year), \$4,000 (third year) and \$2,000 (fourth year).

Our loans scheme will provide real support for current apprentices to complete their skills training and provide a stronger incentive for young Australians to take up apprenticeships.

Providing better support to apprentices is part of our *Real Solutions Plan* to build a stronger Australia and a better future for all Australians.

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