

PLUMBERS UNION FACT SHEET



FACT SHEET 2
(Updated July 2014)

TOOL ALLOWANCE INFORMATION

All Apprentices employed in Queensland are entitled to receive payment for the supply of tools required for their trade. The entitlement comes from the *Queensland Industrial Relations Commission's Supply of Tools to Apprentices – Order*. The Order provides as follows:

During the term of each apprenticeship relating to a trade or calling listed herein, an employer shall, in respect of each year of such term commencing on or after the date of operation of this Order or any variation thereof supply each apprentice with tools of trade of no less value at retail prices than is prescribed herein:

Apprenticeship	Total Retail Value	Annual Retail Value	Nominal Term
Plumbing & Draining	\$2,400	\$600	4 years

The tool allowance is a legislative entitlement that is not affected or reduced by any other government incentives or payments.

TRADE SUPPORT LOANS

The Federal Government has abolished the Tools for your Trade program which means apprentices will no longer be eligible for up to \$5,500 in cash payments to support their apprenticeship.

Instead, apprentices will only be able to apply for loans from the Commonwealth Government through the Trade Support Loans Program. These loans of up to \$20,000 are paid in instalments over the four years of an apprenticeship.

The loans will be available from 1 July 2014 and amounts available are:

- Year 1 - up to \$8,000
- Year 2 - up to \$6,000
- Year 3 - up to \$4,000
- Year 4 - up to \$2,000

Apprentices who complete their apprenticeship will receive a 20% discount on their loan amount.

How will payments be given?

Payments will be made directly to Australian apprentices to their nominated bank account and paid monthly in arrears. Payments will provide regular income support to apprentices.

How will loans be repaid?

Loans will be indexed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and repaid through the taxation system, similar to the way HELP loans are repaid. The loan will be repayable through the taxation system when the minimum income threshold (currently \$53,345) is reached.

Where can I find out more?

For more info or to apply for a Trade Support Loan, contact the Australian Apprenticeships Centre on 13 38 73 or visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/trade-support-loans