

## What CAN'T the loan be used for?

- General living expenses (eg food, clothing)
- Rent & Loan arrears, payment of debts and fines or Court Judgements
- Any recurring costs (eg. Car repairs, rego, tyres, NRMA, insurance)
- Second hand items (must be new)
- Rental bonds and Agent lease fees
- Repairs to white goods and other domestic appliances
- Cash advances, cheques payable to NILS® borrower, cheques payable to a third party for a private sale

## So What Is Next?

SO you believe you meet the low income and NILS® Area qualifications – if so...

- Get an application form and fill in all the details.
- Collect all the necessary statements, bills, accounts (Full details are given in the application form)
- Phone the NILS® office to make Loan Interview appointment (don't delay as there is often a waiting list)
- Do your shopping 'looking', going to several stores to compare brands/prices
- Be careful to look for the highest number of Stars (Refrigerators & Washers) or AA's (Washers) – the more of these, the higher the efficiency, the lower the running costs – 4 to 5 stars or AA is the current highest
- When you've decided on an item get a quote from at least two or three stores
- Get the stores to give you written quotes that will hold good for at least 14 days

- The written quotes must include full details:
  - Price including any delivery charge
  - Brand, Model and Model Number
  - Size (litres for a fridge, Kgs for a washer)
  - Name of sales person & phone number

Quotes can be: Formal written quote or details written on a store business card or store notepad or similar

## Before you go shopping...

- Measure the space where your appliance is to go
- Measure the doorways the item has to pass through and check any stairway access
- Decide if your new FRIDGE should have a LEFT or RIGHT opening door
- Think about which type of washer you want – Top Loading or Front Loading
- Write all this information down and take it with you

## What areas do Telopea NILS® cover?

The Telopea NILS® area is able to help those who live in the following postcodes:

- Anyone living in the Parramatta City Council area, or local area not serviced by another NILS® office.
- All of postcodes 2115, 2116, 2117, 2142.
- Parts of postcodes 2118, 2121, 2150, 2151, 2153, 2160 & 2161
- For more information about NILS® or to find your closet NILS® scheme, [www.nilsnsw.org.au](http://www.nilsnsw.org.au)

Are you eligible for a

# NILS®

## NO INTEREST LOAN

to buy essential household items?



NILS® is a service of  
**Telopea Family Support**

16 Shortland Street, Telopea

Call **9638 7955**

# The No Interest Loan Scheme

Provides low income earners with access to credit without the burden of interest or any other charges.

The money comes from a 'loan pool' – borrowers support the scheme by repaying their loan so that other people may borrow the money (borrowers can apply for another loan if they have repaid in full and on time).

## Are you eligible to apply?

Can you answer 'YES' to the following?

- Are you a low income earner?  
(ie. Holder of a Health Care Card, receiving CentreLink benefits)
- Have you lived in one of the NILS® AREAS for the past six months?
- OR, have you been a client of Telopea Family Support for at least three months and have an active case plan?  
(If you are an active client with another Family Support in the NILS® area, you might still qualify)
- Do you have the ability to repay the loan over a period of up to 18 months?
- Are you unable to qualify for other affordable loans?
- Will a NILS® loan improve the health and well-being of you or your family?

**'YES' to all questions? – then please make your application.**

Application forms are available at Telopea Family Support or contact us on **9638 7955**.

## How much can be borrowed?

- The amount that can be borrowed depends on the item you want to buy. For example, if the washing machine costs \$850 then that is the loan amount.
- The loan amount equals the purchase price in all cases (delivery charges can be included)
- LOAN LIMIT? Loans can be up to \$1200

(This amount covers most essential items and allows the loan to be repaid within the NILS® loan period without stretching the budget. NILS® will not approve a loan if in its assessment difficulties might arise for the borrower or borrower family)

## What is the term of the loan?

- It depends on the amount you wish to borrow and your personal financial circumstances. This will be worked out with you at the Loan Interview.
- It is however expected that the loan will be repaid within 12 months.

## How are repayments made?

- A condition of your loan approval will be to sign an authorisation for direct debit repayments.
- Almost all loans are repaid by direct debit from CentreLink benefits through Centrepay.



## Being assessed for a NILS® loan

- Your Application Form and Budget will be seen by the NILS® Financial Worker at Telopea.
- At a Loan Interview you will present all the necessary documents, bills etc to support your budget and to show ID and address
- The NILS® worker then passes your application to the NILS® Loans Committee where the decision is made about your loan.
- The Committee will then advise you of the decision within 7 working days.

## How is the loan paid to you?

- A cheque is made payable to the retailer or supplier of the item you are purchasing.
- The cheque will be for the exact purchase price (as per your application)

## What CAN the loan be used for?

- To buy new essential household items such as a washing machine; fridge; freezer, main furniture pieces, dryer, mower, heater etc.
- Medical Items such as an asthma pump, blood pressure or blood sugar monitor etc.
- Other worthwhile special items/services in line with NILS® policy and as agreed.

Telopea NILS® is accredited through Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service, who hold the rights to the NILS® trademark. The Program is funded through grants from NSW Office of Fair Trading, FaHCSIA. Loans capital is provided by NAB.