

MEDIA RELEASE
26 November 2019

Aussies turning to No Interest Loans in tough times

Low income Australians borrowed a record \$34.2 million dollars in No Interest Loans (NILS) last financial year, with nearly 30,000 applications approved through the national scheme.

The biggest jump in demand was in the Northern Territory (up 42 per cent) followed by Victoria (up 18 per cent) and South Australia (up 12 per cent).

No Interest Loans of up to \$1500 are available to people who have either a healthcare or pension card or earn less than \$45,000 per year (\$60,000 for people with children). There are no interest charges and no fees.

Good Shepherd CEO Stella Avramopoulos said many banking and financial services were simply not available to more than one million Australians who are working poor and over three million people living on or below the poverty line.

“Being excluded from everyday banking means, when times are tough and big bills come up, you can feel trapped into expensive payday loans or buy now, pay later contracts which come back to bite you in fees and interest,” Ms Avramopoulos said.

“It’s really encouraging to see more and more people using safe, affordable No Interest Loans to borrow for everyday essentials, like car registration and back-to-school costs and accessing our financial counselling services, which help people plan for the future.

“With Christmas around the corner and New Year bills on the horizon, it’s important that people on low incomes don’t jump into high-interest debt they will never get rid of.”

Victorian mum Nikki Maggs, 28, said her No Interest Loan was a financial lifeline.

“I was in a car accident earlier this year and insurance covered repairs to the panels but not the mechanical issues, so I spent five months without a car,” she said.

“I either had to borrow a car from a friend or walk the kids along a busy highway to get to school. Doing the groceries was next to impossible!

“The No Interest Loan application process was simple and, within a few weeks, the repairs were done and my car was back on the road.”

Two-thirds of NILS clients were women and Ms Avramopoulos urged anyone struggling to make ends meet to find out if they were eligible for a No Interest Loan.

“Don’t be tempted to visit a loan shark,” she said. “Make sure you start 2020 on the right financial foot.”

Find out more at nils.com.au

Media contact: Tammy Shipperley, Sequel PR - 0403 090 914 or tammy@sequelpr.com



stepUP
LOAN

NO INTEREST LOANS AND STEPUP LOANS

Our No Interest Loans (NILS) and low interest StepUP loans offer safe, fair and affordable loans to people on low incomes for essential goods and services.



29,823
LOANS ACROSS
AUSTRALIA



3%
MORE THAN
THE YEAR
BEFORE

\$34.2M

BORROWED

TOP LOAN PURPOSES

**CAR REPAIRS,
CAR REGISTRATION,
NEW FRIDGE**

