

2013-2014

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

THE SENATE

Trade Support Loans Bill 2014

(Second reading amendment to be moved by Senator Carr on behalf of the Opposition)

At the end of the motion, add:

but the Senate notes that the Government has failed to:

- (a) advise apprentices before the election that they would be abolishing the Tools for Your Trade program, thus leaving Trade Support Loans as the only form of assistance for the purchase of tools;
- (b) adequately ensure that clear and easily understood explanations of the loan, the indexing and the repayment requirements are provided to all apprentices in a consistent format, in particular for school-based apprentices;
- (c) put in place adequate privacy protections for the large volumes of information that will be acquired through the Trade Support Loans Program;
- (d) outline the method for achieving parental/guardian approval for apprentices under 18 years of age, in particular school based apprentices, at the point of signing up for loan amounts; and
- (e) offer:
 - (i) fair and reasonable transition arrangements for current apprentices; and
 - (ii) apprentices the option of lump sum payments in order to purchase expensive items.