

**You Can Access a Loan
for...**

ESSENTIAL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Baby Items ~ Lawn Mower ~ Microwave ~
Beds/Mattresses ~ Clothes Dryer ~ Fridge
Washing Machine ~ Furniture ~ Heater
Hot Water Service ~ Vacuum Cleaner
Vehicle Registration ~ Computers

EDUCATION

TAFE & Community College Courses
Computers

HEALTH ITEMS

Wheelchair ~ Car hoist ~ Spectacles ~
Dental ~ Asthma pump etc.

REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE

Television ~ Car ~ Computer ~
Building (Ramps/Locks/Windows) etc.

Applicants Rights and Responsibilities

Rights

People wishing to use Great Lakes NILS have the right to expect that Forster Neighbourhood Centre will make every effort to ensure that their rights are upheld. This includes the right to:

- Be treated fairly and with respect regardless of their personal circumstances or beliefs
- Be informed about the schemes eligibility criteria
- Be informed about the loan decision making processes
- Receive the Terms and Conditions of the loan
- Know how information about them is recorded and who will have access to their information
- Make a complaint and have the complaint dealt with fairly and promptly without retribution
- Access their file documents at any time

It is recommended that the NILS applicant be given a copy of their rights and responsibilities at the interview stage

Responsibilities

- The applicant must act in a manner that respects the rights of other applicants and employees of the agency
- The loan applicant is responsible for ensuring all information provided for the purposes of the loan enquiry and interview are true and correct and that no false or misleading information is given at any time.
- It is the borrower's responsibility to contact the agency if they are unable to make a payment.

Great Lakes NILS

**NO INTEREST
LOAN SCHEME**

Enquiries & interviews
Forster Neighbourhood Centre

02 6555 4351

www.fnc.org.au

Or freecall

NILS NSW 1800 509 994

www.nilsnsw.org.au



The Great Lakes NILS is funded through
NSW Fair Trade & Financially Supported by the
National Australia Bank



great partnerships
great communities

Great Lakes NILS

**NO INTEREST
LOAN SCHEME**

What is a No Interest Loan Scheme?

HISTORY

Great Lakes No Interest Loan Scheme (Great Lakes NILS) is structured on the model developed by the Good Shepherd *Youth & Family Service* and has been operating in Australia since 1981.

PURPOSE

Great Lakes NILS enables low income residents and families from the Great Lakes area to purchase essential household items to enhance their quality of life, without paying interest on the money borrowed.

Great Lakes NILS is an alternative form of credit, not emergency relief, and loans are made to people who can genuinely afford the repayment.

Who can apply?

People who:

- Have lived in the Great Lakes Local Government area for at least six months and in current accommodation for 3 months.
- Are receiving a Centrelink payment or are on a low income, and
- Can afford to repay the loan in fortnightly repayments.

How much can be borrowed?

From \$100 up to \$1,200

- Loans are for one item per household only, exceptions being registration.
- Any subsequent loans can only be considered when the existing loan has been fully repaid.
- The provision of subsequent loans will be dependant on the Great Lakes NILS capital base and demand for the service.

How do I apply?

Step 1 Fill out an enquiry form (Great Lakes NILS Form 1) over the phone or in person at the FNC to ascertain your eligibility. NILS information packages are to be picked up at FNC.

Step 2 Eligible applicants are to complete the document checklist (Great Lakes NILS Form no 2) in the NILS information package and make an appointment to attend an interview with the Loans Officer.

Step 3 Bring all the necessary documentation to the interview; the Loans Officer and applicant will complete the application form (Great Lakes NILS Form 3) and budget sheet (Great Lakes NILS Form 4).

Step 4 Applications are assessed by an external Loans Committee and applicants are advised by phone if their application has been approved or declined.

Step 5 If approved, an interview is arranged to complete the loan agreement (Great Lakes NILS Form 7)

Step 6 A second loan application can be submitted upon successful completion of the initial loan.

Great Lakes NILS will NOT lend for?

- Bond and rent money
- Rent arrears
- Living expenses such as food
- Gas, electricity or telephone bills
- Purchase of Motor Vehicles
- Sporting equipment

Loans are also *not approved* for:

- Cash advances
- Debt repayment and consolidation
- Cheques payable to the loan recipient
- Cheques to a third party for a private sale

Great Lakes NILS is not a program that provides emergency relief, but provides access to a service that usually is not accessible to people on low incomes through mainstream avenues.

Great Lakes NILS is designed to provide a safe credit resource to those who can meet and manage fortnightly repayments, without entering into further financial hardship.

Free Financial Counselling

Great Lakes NILS compliments the Forster Neighbourhood Centre's Financial Counselling Service. Small group financial Literacy courses are also available.

The service operates four days per week from the FNC and appointments can be made by contacting Noel at the Centre on 6555 4351.