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THE INVESTOR

YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR DTI RATIO

A DTI refers to a debt-to-income ratio and is the most important calculation to understand when applying for a home loan. A DTI determines the type of mortgage you can qualify for, the interest rate offered, and how much you can borrow.

A debt-to-income ratio compares the amount of debt you have to your overall income.

To calculate your DTI ratio, you must add up your total debts and liabilities and divide this by your gross income.

The type of debts and liabilities a lender can consider are credit cards, finance and instalment plans, personal loans, car loans, asset finance, HECS, home loans, investment loans and lines of credit.

What is your DTI Ratio?

Calculation example:

A couple earns a combined salary of \$160,000

The couple have a home loan of \$550,000, a personal loan of \$15,000 and a credit card of \$5,000.

Liabilities = \$570,000

Gross Income = \$160,000

$\$570,000 / \$160,000 = 3.56$

Generally speaking, a DTI of 6 or greater is considered high risk; however, some lenders will monitor mortgage applications with a DTI greater than 4.5, while others will consider DTIs up to 9. A low DTI is considered less than 3.6 and is often viewed favourably by lenders.

When applying for a home loan, it can be advantageous to ask the lender what their DTI caps are before applying.



WE ARE HERE
TO ASSIST

UNDERSTANDING TWO TYPES OF HOME LOAN TERMINOLOGIES

Following the recent interest rate rise and the media's focus on how you can reduce your monthly home loan payments, we want to discuss two types of home loan features. Firstly, a redraw facility and, secondly, an offset account. Both of these loan features can be beneficial in reducing your home loan and interest payable.

What are these features, and what are the differences?

A redraw facility allows borrowers to make extra repayments into their home loan account and withdraw them later. The extra repayments reduce the loan amount and interest payable, enabling you to pay off your mortgage faster. A redraw facility can be valuable if you need cash in an emergency or must pay a significant expense like a holiday or renovations. The critical point to understand about a redraw facility is that the money is not yours but the lenders. Therefore, the lender can stipulate how much or little you withdraw, deposit, or hold in the account and how many times you can contribute or take from it. A redraw facility is generally only linked to variable home loans.

An offset account is a transaction (or savings) account that is linked to your home loan. The money in this account is 'offset' against your loan balance, reducing the interest payable. Offset accounts can be linked to variable or fixed-rate home loans. The advantage of this type of account is that you are in control of your money. You can have the flexibility for your employer to deposit your salary into the account and use it for everyday spending with a debit card. However, offset accounts can attract higher interest rates and fees than loans that don't.

If you want to save money and reduce your home loan and interest payable, we strongly recommend you seek advice from your financial advisor or accountant.

ALERT | MAKE SURE YOUR PROPERTY IS SAFE?

When owning or managing an investment property, you are bound by a legal duty of care to the renter to ensure that the property is fit and safe to reside in.

Maintenance and repair requirements can fall into different categories in accordance with the law. You can have general repairs, urgent (emergency) repairs, and repairs that (if not actioned promptly) can lead to a litigation claim and compensation payable if someone is injured or adversely impacted.

During the management of your property, if we draw to your attention any of the below repair requests, it is important that you take immediate action.

- Faulty window or door locks
- Ripples or loose threads in the carpet or on the stairwell
- Cracked or sharp edges on tiles
- Cracked or loose power points sockets
- External uneven pavers
- Lose or wobbly balcony railings
- Loose or exposed wiring on light fittings
- Appliances that are shorting out the electrical circuit board
- Inadequate lighting in stairways and external walkway areas
- Unnecessary objects protruding out that could lead to a slip and fall
- Sagging ceilings
- Faulty or non-closing pool gate fence
- Dry rot on external railings, floorboards, and steps
- Loose or hanging gutters and downpipes
- Non-compliant smoke detectors and safety switches
- Excessive mould

If a claim was made the questions asked to determine liability would include: Was the accident the result of failure to repair, maintain or clean the space? Could the accident have been prevented in any way? Would it have been reasonable to have noticed the repair/hazard?

We do understand that, for many investors, paying for and attending to repairs and maintenance can place a financial strain on a household. However, the consequences of not being proactive can result in an unwanted lawsuit.

RENT ARREARS | WE HAVE FOUND SOMEONE TO PAY THE RENT WHEN YOUR RENTERS WON'T

Ensuring that the renter's rent is paid on time is one of the top priorities for investors, outside of ensuring that the property is well cared for.

As your managing agent, we have strict follow-up rent arrear policies. However, even the best renter can face challenging financial circumstances with the loss of employment or excessive unexpected expenses.

For this reason, we strongly recommend that all investors take out rental provider protection insurance to give you peace of mind and cover you for loss of rent, property damage and other out-of-pocket expenses.

For such a minimal tax-deductible fee, you can reduce your potential for financial loss.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL
OR DO YOU OWN ANOTHER RENTAL PROPERTY?

Talk to the Experts

CALL US TODAY

SMOKE DETECTOR SAFETY



In order to comply with the Building Code each property that is a rental property, **MUST** be fitted with adequate, functioning Smoke Detectors. Throughout the course of a tenancy, the RRP must have the Smoke Detector Units inspected by a suitably qualified technician / Electrician every 12 months.

Those rental providers currently enrolled in the Annual Smoke Detector Compliance Safety Program please note the service has begun.

Significant Penalties now apply for Rental Providers if the property **DOES NOT COMPLY** with the safety, and Rental Minimum Standards..

Talk to your property manager today if you have any questions or concerns.

SUDOKU COFFEE BREAK

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