

**C**

**PAYING BILLS**

**Key terms**

date of issue	credit	deferred payment	increments	meter
kilowatt	rental	megajoules	balance	units consumed
kilolitre	STD calls			

**ACTIVITY OUTLINE**

Ask students to conduct research using the internet. They should:

- access the websites of at least one of the major telecommunications companies
- find out the local call charges and service and equipment charges
- find out the STD and International Direct Dialling pricing and specials
- find out the cost of making calls to mobile phones.

Ask students to bring in bills from home. These might include electricity, gas, fixed telephone or mobile phone bills.

Ask students: How much do we pay for local calls? What are STD calls and why do we pay more for them? How much more do we pay to call locally from mobile phones?

Explain the key terms, such as call charges (including local, mobile and STD calls), units (number of calls), service and equipment charges (rent for telephone handset and maintenance of telephone lines). Ask the students to complete WORKSHEET C1.

Access the *Money Stuff* website ([www.moneystuff.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.moneystuff.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)) and ask students to complete the mobile phone section of the *Money Stuff* Challenge.

Ask students: Which call plan did they choose and why? Discuss the 'hidden' costs associated with mobile phones (the actual costs of the calls).

Ask students if they have seen a water bill at home. Explain that the amount of water used is calculated per kilolitre. In some areas, the water bill is incorporated into the Council rates. In rental accommodation, the tenants are required to pay for the water they use but are not required to pay for the sewerage or stormwater drainage service. Ask students to complete WORKSHEETS C2 and C3.