Australian Banking Association

Understanding the end of card surcharges

From **1 October 2026**, businesses will no longer be able to add a surcharge when you pay with eftpos, Visa or Mastercard.

American Express will also adopt this change.

That means no extra fee for tapping or inserting your card at the checkout.

This change comes from reforms by the Reserve Bank of Australia. The goal is simpler, more transparent pricing for customers and businesses.

In most cases, the price you see will be the price you pay.

Some other charges, like weekend or public holiday surcharges, are not affected by this change.

Banks have reduced their fees

As part of these reforms, banks have reduced the fees they charge for debit and credit card payments.

The Reserve Bank has cut these fees to some of the lowest levels in the world.

For example, the maximum fee a customers' bank can charge to small businesses on a consumer credit card payment drops from 0.8% to 0.3% of the transaction, or from 80 cents to 30 cents on a $100 purchase.

The expectation is that lower payment costs will help businesses and customers.

But banks are responsible for only some of the fees on card payments.

If costs don't come down for small businesses, it is because other companies in the payments chain (such as Visa, Mastercard, Square or Tyro) have raised their fees while banks have reduced theirs.

Why might I still see a card surcharge?

Some small businesses may still need to update the settings on their payment machines.

Banks will disable the surcharge function on the machines they control. You may notice occasional surcharges for a short time while remaining businesses update their systems.

Card networks (like Visa, Mastercard and eftpos) and payment providers (like Square, Tyro, Stripe and some banks) are responsible for enforcing the new rules.

If a surcharge is still being charged after 1 October, it is up to those organisations to address it.

What this means for you

- The price you see should be the price you pay.
- You should no longer need to check for card surcharges.
- Businesses may include payment costs in their normal prices instead of adding a separate fee at the checkout.

Quick facts

What changes?

Card surcharges end.

When?

1 October 2026.

Who is covered?

eftpos, Visa, Mastercard and American Express card payments.

Who enforces it?

The card networks and payment providers.

Summary

- From 1 October 2026, businesses will no longer be able to add surcharges to most card payments. The price you see should be the price you pay.
- The change follows reforms by the Reserve Bank of Australia designed to make pricing simpler and more transparent.
- Banks have already reduced their fees as part of these reforms. The next step is for the rest of the payments system to ensure those savings flow through to consumers and businesses.