

Money Business




Australian Government
Department of Family and
Community Services

ANZ

The Australian Government and ANZ
working together to support Indigenous
families with money management

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The Australian Government, through the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) and ANZ share a strong interest in working together with Indigenous people so that they can build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

Together we'll be tackling the important challenges of building money management skills and confidence and a stronger savings culture in Indigenous communities. Our Partnership is a model for government and the corporate sector working together to do an important job.

We'll put together ANZ's knowledge and experience with financial literacy (see breakout box), and the Australian Government's remote service delivery knowledge and experience especially with money management service delivery.

Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is the ability to make informed judgments and effective decisions about the use and management of money.

What the Partners will do together

Together, ANZ and FaCS will:

- develop an Indigenous money management training materials package, to be used to train the workers in the six MoneyBusiness sites;
- offer Saver Plus in the MoneyBusiness sites;
- work with other Australian Government programmes and the private sector to grow Indigenous money management skills around Australia;
- check what's working and what's not working.

Message from an Indigenous leader

Mr Robert Lee, CEO of Jawoyn Association, Katherine, and member of the National Indigenous Council

What I really like about the MoneyBusiness programme is that it's about empowerment – giving people the knowledge and skills so that they can make better money management decisions themselves. It tackles problems upstream – not trying to patch things up afterwards. It's about taking control of your money, so that it can be used to look after your life and the life of your family. That's much better than trying to patch things up later. Our people will be able to understand more about how to get loans; how to make their money grow and save – to put something aside for later-on, especially for kids' education. The programme is about much more than just money. It's about life skills. It's about jobs and holding down a job. Education is the key to empowerment. It's really great to see the ANZ and the Government working together in a partnership to make a difference, as they are with the MoneyBusiness programme.

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The Australian Government's contribution to the Partnership

Through FaCS, the Australian Government is rolling out MoneyBusiness – the Indigenous Financial Management initiative. MoneyBusiness is one of a range of Indigenous money management programmes funded by the Australian Government. Six sites in the Northern Territory and Western Australia will be set up. In each site, trained local Indigenous people will be working in their community providing Indigenous families and individuals with coaching in financial literacy, budgeting, bill paying and developing savings plans. The programme will run over a three-year period.

The Government, through the Department of Family and Community Services, has also been working in Cape York in the Family Income Management (FIM) pilots since 2002. We can see some very pleasing results there already. Indigenous families are becoming more confident in planning for the future, being able to pay the bills and making sure that essentials like food and medicine are provided for.

ANZ's contribution to the Partnership

ANZ has developed Saver Plus and MoneyMinded (see breakout box) to improve the money management skills and levels of financial literacy of those most in need.

ANZ's research shows that up to 120,000 Australians are struggling to access appropriate low-cost, fair and safe financial services from mainstream providers. They are totally excluded, with no ownership of financial products. Around six per cent of adults have minimal financial access, owning only a transaction account. Indigenous people are over-represented in both groups and Indigenous Australians are the only ethnic group in Australia consistently associated with financial exclusion.

Messages from the Partners

Senator the Hon Kay Patterson MP Minister for Family and Community Services

The Australian Government is strongly committed to building the money management skills of Indigenous Australians. MoneyBusiness builds on what we have learned from the Family Income Management pilots that have been running successfully since 2002. Both programmes are about local people working side by side with Indigenous families and individuals to make their dollars go further.

We know that sound money management is a basic building block for family and communities. It links with the Australian Government's family violence programmes and with our childcare programmes. It is fundamental in building the foundations of self-reliance, strong families and strong communities.

The MoneyBusiness programme is important because it tackles problems at their source and builds confidence and knowledge by setting Indigenous people up to make the best possible decisions with the money they have.

It is gratifying when the corporate sector and the government's interests and priorities line up, as they do

with this Partnership between our Government and the ANZ. I'm impressed to see the Bank taking up the challenge with us, of building the money management skills of Indigenous Australians, particularly in remote communities. I know that they are also building financial literacy partnerships with Indigenous credit unions, and that is also pleasing to see.

The Partnership is a great opportunity to combine the specialist knowledge, ideas, commitment and skills we each have, about financial literacy and service delivery to Indigenous families. Each can put resources together to deliver a stronger impact on Indigenous disadvantage, providing employment, training and life skills for Indigenous people across Australia.

It is also an opportunity to improve the level of understanding within the financial services sector of the particular money management challenges that remote Indigenous families and individuals face.

I am very proud of this Partnership and pleased that the ANZ is taking a lead in addressing the financial exclusion of Indigenous Australians which they have highlighted through their financial literacy research. The Australian Government looks forward to a long and productive relationship in this area with the ANZ.

Mr John McFarlane CEO ANZ

We know that financial literacy and exclusion issues affect Australians. However it is clear that no group is more deeply disadvantaged than Indigenous people.

We have recognised the important role our sector can play in helping Indigenous people and families to gain control of their financial futures. That's why we are working in partnership with the Australian Government Department of FaCS to create a program that helps to address this challenging problem.

We know there is a great deal to do in this area and we hope to create other partnerships with Indigenous Australians to make a sustained contribution.

Saver Plus

Saver Plus is a financial literacy and matched savings programme helping families on low incomes build savings habits and financial knowledge. The programme has been developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is the first of its kind in Australia.

Saver Plus encourages participants to set a savings target to pay for something connected with their child's education. They must make regular deposits over time to meet that target. Participants are supported with financial literacy training and coaching to reach their goal.

MoneyMinded

MoneyMinded is Australia's first comprehensive adult financial education programme. Community educators and financial counsellors can use it to help low income earners build knowledge and confidence in managing money.

For more information about
MoneyBusiness contact:

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