

Saver Plus builds lasting savings habits



Saver Plus participants, Rose-Ann Bacon and her daughter, Georgia.

New research shows our Saver Plus program is helping low-income families develop lasting savings habits.

Almost nine out of every 10 participants enrolled in Saver Plus are now saving their money at the same rate they were while on the program, research by RMIT University has found. Many also reported less stress, increased self-esteem and feelings of greater control over their lives.

For Rose-Anne Bacon, a single parent in Kyabram, Victoria, saving was near impossible until she took part in Saver Plus. She saved \$500 (which ANZ matched) for a second-hand computer for her daughter, and has kept saving.

"I've continued to save at the same level as I was during the program. The money is occasionally used for emergencies and anything left over goes into the holiday fund. I am so much more aware now of how to cope with unexpected expenses and think twice about the little things which all help you stay prepared," Rose-Ann said.

Rose-Ann's daughter, Georgia, is currently a participant: "You don't realise where your money is going, but I am much more aware now. I feel like a weight has been lifted. I've got university books coming up next year that I'll need to buy and just having \$1,000 there, on top of what I save from now, will really help," Georgia said.



John Harries, General Manager Australia Operations ANZ; The Hon Julie Collins MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services; and Tony Nicholson, Executive Director Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The research reports, *'Many Faces of Saving: The Social Dimensions of Saver Plus'* by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and *'Evaluation of Saver Plus Past Participants'*, by RMIT University were released by the Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services, Julie Collins.

"The reports demonstrate just how important Saver Plus is in helping vulnerable Australians become more financially self-reliant and how vital it is that we continue to find innovative ways to support people who are disadvantaged," Ms Collins said.

Brotherhood of St Laurence Executive Director, Tony Nicholson, said: "Saver Plus is now operating in sixty sites in all States and Territories and, with the continued support of ANZ and Government, we can assist in reducing the risk of financial exclusion for thousands of people in those communities."

Now in its eighth year, Saver Plus has assisted nearly 12,000 Australians to save over \$6 million and aims to reach 20,000 more Australians in the next four years, with a \$13 million commitment from ANZ. The Government has committed \$26.5 million for a further four years.

Saver Plus was developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family, The Benevolent Society, Berry Street and other local community organisations.

Learn more:

- [Saver Plus research summary report \(PDF 612kB\)](#)
- [About Saver Plus](#)
- [Media Release: The Hon Julie Collins MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Services](#)

Features

- [Strengthening trade relations with Japan and Korea](#)
- [Improving financial inclusion in the Pacific](#)

Strengthening trade relations with Japan and Korea



We support the Australian Government's approach to prioritising multilateral trade agreements, including the World Trade Organisation Doha Round, and believe these efforts should be complemented through the negotiation of bilateral free trade agreements with Japan and Republic of Korea.

Our recent submission to the Parliamentary inquiry examining Australia's trade and investment relationship with Japan and Republic of Korea highlights the opportunities and the barriers we see to strengthening trade relations with both countries.

It is important that Australian businesses and the Government continue to work together to pursue market access through free trade agreements, as they provide a key opportunity to raise issues and promote Australia's economic and trade interests.

In Republic of Korea, trade and investment with Australia is significant and growing. However barriers remain in some areas, including services. A comprehensive free trade agreement would further strengthen Australia's trade relations with the country and deliver gains through closer economic integration.

In Japan, trade and investment with Australia also continues to grow, but tariff barriers remain a concern, particularly in relation to agricultural products and food. There are also non-tariff barriers faced by Australian businesses hoping to trade with Japan, for example, quotas and excessive product testing requirements.

"Improving our and our customers access to these markets is critical to helping underpin Australia's efforts to contribute to and benefit from the fast growing East Asian economies", said Asia Pacific CEO Alex Thursby.

Learn more:

- [Read our submission \(PDF 5.3MB\)](#)
- [Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's trade and investment relationship with Japan and the Republic of Korea](#)

Features

- [Saver Plus builds lasting savings habits](#)
- [Improving financial inclusion in the Pacific](#)

Improving financial inclusion in the Pacific



Elizabeth Rova from ANZ's Rural Banking team, with Fiji school children

Strong partnerships and a long-term commitment to the provision of inclusive and sustainable financial services are key to improving the quality of life for disadvantaged communities in the Pacific, according to Reserve Bank of Vanuatu Governor, Mr Odo Tevi.

Governor Tevi was speaking at the Pacific Microfinance Week Conference in Vanuatu, of which ANZ was a major supporter. Hosted by the Central Bank of Vanuatu and organised by the Microfinance Pasifika Network, an initiative of the Foundation for Development Cooperation, the conference explored opportunities to improve financial inclusion and capability in the Pacific through financial literacy programs and banking services, such as savings, credit, insurance, and remittance and payment services.

Executive Director of the Foundation for Development Cooperation, Sean Rooney, said: "The input of ANZ to the conference was significant in helping to increase awareness of microfinance operations in the Pacific and encourage partnerships and cooperation."

ANZ Fiji's Head of Rural Banking and Microfinance, Baro Saumaki, spoke about our long-established focus on building financial capability and supporting rural development in Fiji.

"We know that the combination of financial literacy and access to reliable financial services has a direct impact on helping to lift communities out of poverty. Providing banking services for more than 74,000 customers who live in remote villages and communities in Fiji and building their financial capability is one of the ways ANZ can contribute," Baro said.

We are currently piloting our MoneyMinded Pacific program in three Fiji provinces in partnership with the Reserve Bank of Fiji. MoneyMinded Pacific is the first financial literacy program of its kind designed specifically for a Pacific audience. It complements our flagship rural banking and microfinance initiatives for rural and remote communities and leverages ANZ's mobile banking centres.

ANZ has operated in the Pacific for more than 130 years and we employ more than 2,000 staff in 12 Pacific countries.

We launched our rural banking service in Fiji in 2004, providing regular, face-to-face services to more than 300 communities and 170 schools through purpose-built trucks that travel between remote villages and provide basic banking services. We have since extended the service to other Pacific island countries where we operate and the service now supports approximately 90,000 people throughout Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu.

Learn more:

- [About our MoneyMinded program](#)

Features

- [Saver Plus builds lasting savings habits](#)
- [Strengthening trade relations with Japan and Korea](#)