

# Budgeting Tips

Budgeting means having a plan for how we want to spend our money. On pay day, set aside money for the most important things, generally it is to pay bills, house and food. Here are some budgeting tips:

## House



Set up a regular payment and Centrelink deduction to automatically pay your rent and bills.



Get other house members to help you pay the bills.



Get Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) to receive extra money to pay for your rent.



Getting a smaller house, as the rent is usually cheaper and it's easier to maintain too!



If you know that you can't pay your rent, talk to the housing mob as soon as possible. The earlier you talk to them the more options you have.

## Food



Cooking at home is usually cheaper than buying from take away shops and it is healthier.



Buy less junk food, soda and lollies.



Buy veggies and fruit in season, plant your own veggies or go bush gathering.



Have a list of what to buy and stick with your budget.



Buying in bulk is usually cheaper.



Get cheaper brands. E.g.: A home brand pasta costs \$1 while a branded pasta costs \$3.

## Other tips



Shop around for cheaper SIM cards.



Get good second-hand items such as clothes, furniture and white goods.



Follow road rules to avoid paying fines and make sure your car is always registered.



Go shopping less often, that way you spend less on petrol and taxis.



Save for rainy days. If you save \$10-\$20 every weeks, you will have more than \$500 in one year that can be used for emergencies.



Check if you are eligible for the NT concession scheme. You can get extra money to pay bills.



Don't get a loan if you're not sure whether you can pay it back. Loans can put you in a worse situation.



Lastly, if you need help with budgeting, talk to a financial counsellor or money management worker in your community. It is free and you will get help.

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