

**REG FM - “Lets talk.....study, work & life”**

**Bought to you by Wellington/East Gippsland Learn Locals**

### **June topic: Money Matters 2**

Welcome to “Lets talk..... study, work and life” bought to you by Wellington/East Gippsland Learn Locals in partnership with REG FM – community radio.

Learn Local it is a state government funded program providing pre accredited training/programs for local people in local communities. Most of our programs are offered through small not for profits - in our case we have Learn Locals at the Heyfield Community Resource Centre, Sale Neighbourhood House, Buchan Neighbourhood House, Paynesville Neighbourhood Centre, Orbost Education Centre and Mallacoota Neighbourhood House. We can support local people in their return to study and work and with general life skills.

Learn Local programs are held in local communities, in safe environments and with small group numbers. Learn Locals are a safe place to learn, ask questions, get some information and connect with others. To find out more about Learn Locals in Gippsland check out our website <https://www.gippslandlearnlocal.community/>

We feature content from each of our programs on REG FM the second Tuesday of every month at 10.30am and the podcast will then be available through the Gippsland Learn Local website and/or via your community newsletters.

### **Money Matters messages:**

The main focus of our Money Matters programs is about supporting people in **taking control of their financial situation.**

It is about **accessing resources and supports** that are available to everyone to help manage their financial situation.

- Need help with a budget – Money smart website <https://moneysmart.gov.au/>
- Need help with managing your debt – National Debt Helpline <https://ndh.org.au/>

We are currently preparing our programs and courses for Term 3 and are offering a range of courses including all things digital from basics to advanced, money matters, and our extremely successful Get ready for work programs. We are also trialling a few short course taster programs in health and green jobs. To find out more about Learn Local programs in Gippsland ask the Neighbourhood House in your community or check out our website <https://www.gippslandlearnlocal.community/>

Don't forget that if you don't have access to wifi or technology you can visit the many fantastic Neighbourhood Houses in East Gippsland and they will help you to connect with technology. The other option is the libraries in East Gippsland where you can access computers for free.

Our June Money Matters program has a focus on dealing with debt and credit.

### **What are some of the key messages for people wanting to manage their debt.**

Debt is when you owe a person or organisation money – it could be a fine, or money you borrowed, it could be a mortgage or a credit card, it could be a utility bill.

Some debt can be planned – like a mortgage and some debt can be unplanned due to unforeseen circumstances – like unemployment, an emergency, or cost of living or not thinking through a purchase – *“do I have enough money to pay for it??”* or getting caught up in online spending.

There are lots of costs associated with debt and the main one can sometimes be the stress, other costs can include the interest, admin fees, dishonour fees, late payment fees. Whatever way you look at it debt can be a challenge and it needs to be managed.

### **Where can people get help with managing debt**

Key message is to take control and get some help. Banks, utility companies all have services that can help you manage debt – check out their websites or refer to the details on your utility bill to find out how to get assistance.

The most important thing to note is that **debt can be expensive and at times risky – so do your research** and make sure you can pay off debt before you enter into any agreements. **Get help to manage debt – just a reminder that you can access a free Financial Counsellor through the local Anglicare office.** <https://www.anglicarevic.org.au/>

The MoneySmart website has a great section on debt with tips on how to consolidate and pay it off. <https://moneysmart.gov.au>

Another resource is the National Debt Helpline <https://ndh.org.au/> which can give you lots of information about managing debt and where to go to get help

### **Key messages about accessing credit include:**

- Know what you need – be honest about your priorities and do you really need it.
- Shop around – speak to your bank or a financial counsellor.
- Only deal with licensed credit providers.
- You have a right to information before you sign up to any credit.
- Read and understand the fine print.
- You can complain or provide feedback in a positive and productive manner.
- Where to go to get help – Anglicare Financial Counsellor – its free!!

**Tip:** Allocate an hour to check out the MoneySmart website, search for the sections on debt and credit. Make some notes and do your research.

You will also find out how to connect with a financial counsellor in your community.

<https://moneysmart.gov.au/>

Our next Money Matters program start in Sale on 17<sup>th</sup> July however if you would like to have a program in your local community please make contact and we will try of arrange a course. Give us a call on 5156 0214 or connect through the Neighbourhood House in your community.

<https://www.gippslandlearnlocal.community/>