

What is MoneyHelp?

Need help managing your money and debt?

www.moneyhelp.org.au

1800 149 689

What is MoneyHelp?

MoneyHelp is a not-for-profit service funded by the Victorian Government to provide free, confidential and independent financial advice to Victorians.

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rent or mortgage or facing job loss or reduced working hours, MoneyHelp may be able to help you.

You may be having trouble coping with your credit cards, rent or mortgage repayments and bills. Visit www.moneyhelp.org.au or you can speak to a professional financial counsellor on the phone advice line **1800 149 689**.

The MoneyHelp **free phone financial counselling service** can assist you if you live in Victoria and:

- are experiencing difficulty paying your rent or mortgage; OR
- have financial difficulties arising from recent job loss or reduced working hours.

Please note that MoneyHelp does not lend or give out money.

The MoneyHelp website, www.moneyhelp.org.au is easy to use and you will find practical information that is relevant to your specific situation, including:

- tools to work out your income and expenses and prioritise your debts;
- debt payment options and how to manage creditors;
- hardship programs;
- Centrelink information; and
- handy fact sheets and templates.

To speak to a MoneyHelp financial counsellor call **1800 149 689** Monday – Friday between 9.30am – 5.00pm, or visit www.moneyhelp.org.au for further information.

Your debt options

If you are struggling with debts or living costs, help is available.

You can get assistance to help you make informed decisions about your options.

MoneyHelp can advise you on your rights and options, and on how they apply to your individual circumstances.

By understanding your debts and the consequences of not paying, you will gain a greater awareness of your rights and responsibilities.

Financial problems can be difficult and are increasingly experienced by more and more people. Our experienced financial counsellors understand the challenges you face and can talk to you about your situation.



The Checklist ✓

- Act early on rent arrears to help avoid eviction
- Be aware that mortgage arrears may quickly lead to your lender selling your home
- Find out your employment entitlements if you are made redundant
- Contact Centrelink before spending or investing any termination payments
- Identify all your bills and debts
- Prepare a budget to get an accurate financial picture

What is MoneyHelp Financial Counselling?

The MoneyHelp financial counselling service offers free, confidential and independent financial advice to Victorians experiencing difficulty paying their rent or mortgage, or facing job loss or reduced working hours.

MoneyHelp financial counsellors can provide advice about:

- your rights and options for paying debts;
- how to access hardship programs with banks, other lenders and utility companies;
- the debt recovery processes;
- the pros and cons of bankruptcy;
- working out an affordable repayment plan; and
- how to prepare a budget.

To speak to a financial counsellor call **1800 149 689** Monday – Friday between 9.30am – 5.00pm, or visit www.moneyhelp.org.au for further information.



The Checklist ✓

To allow a financial counsellor to establish a full picture of your finances, it is useful to have the following information ready:

- Any court documents received and other letters about bills and debts that seem urgent
- A list of all your debts and fines
- Details of your income

Establishing a budget

If you find yourself in debt or struggling to pay the bills, it is helpful to prepare a budget.

A budget that details your income and expenditure will help you understand where your money is going and identify if there are any areas where you might be able to reduce your expenses.

Use the **MoneyHelp Budget Planner** on the following pages, as a check list to make sure you don't overlook any expenses.



MoneyHelp Budget Planner

Income

	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Your salary (or partner's)			
Pension or government allowance			
Family payment			
Child support			
Rental income			
Investment earnings after tax			
Other income (Dividends, rental income etc)			
Total Income			

Expenses

Home	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Rent			
Mortgage/s			
Land and water rates			
House repairs			
Strata levies			
Council rates			

Insurance	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Home & contents			
Car insurance			
Health cover			
Disability, Live, TPD cover			
Income protection			
Other			

Personal items	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Clothing & shoes			
Haircuts			
Grooming/cosmetics			
Gifts			
Cigarettes			
Laundry/dry cleaning			
Donations			
Memberships/subscriptions			
Entertainment			
Other			

Savings	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Regular savings			
Personal superannuation contributions			
Other			

Medical	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Doctor			
Dentist			
Chemist			
Eye care & optometrist			
Specialists/alternative therapies			
Pet & vet			

Groceries & food	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Meat			
Fruit/Vegetables			
Lunches			
Pet food			
Takeaway			
Restaurants & bars			
Alcohol			

Education	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
School/university fees			
Uniforms			
Self education			
School excursions			
Tutoring/books			
Sports/out of school activities			
Pre-school			

Children	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Maintenance			
Childcare			
Pocket money			

Utilities	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Electricity			
Gas			
Water			
Phones			
Internet & cable TV			

Transport	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Petrol			
Servicing & repairs			
Registration			
Licence			
Fares/tolls			
Public transport fees			

Total	Fort-nightly	Month	Year
Total Income			
Total Expenses			
Income minus Expenses			



Money Help

MoneyHelp is a free, not-for-profit service supported by the Victorian Government.

If you need assistance to help manage your money and debts, contact a MoneyHelp financial counsellor.

www.moneyhelp.org.au
1800 149 689

Phone lines are Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm.
Interpreter services available.

The funding for this booklet was provided by the Victorian Property Fund on the approval of the Minister for Consumer Affairs.