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MANAGE YOUR BUDGET BETTER WITH AUSTRALIA'S FIRST FULLY INTEGRATED ONLINE 'BUDGET TRACKER' TOOL

Suncorp Bank has launched Australia's first fully integrated online personal financial management tool, called '*Budget Tracker*', to help Australians better manage their money.

Suncorp Bank's *Budget Tracker* makes managing the budget a whole lot simpler. It brings all of a customer's accounts together in one place and automatically categorises and sorts individual transactions, making it easier to monitor spending, set realistic budgets and plan for the future.

Suncorp Bank Executive Manager Customer Strategy and Marketing Todd Skerman said it was a great advancement in online technology and would benefit anyone trying to better budget and save their hard earned dollars.

"Budgeting and saving effectively is something most people struggle with and while some of us set budgets, often we forget to look back and see how we've tracked against that budget over the week, month or year," he said.

"A recent national survey* of more than 2000 transaction account holders revealed only 1 in 5 (or 26%) consumers felt extremely confident in efficiently managing their personal finances on a regular basis, with families even less confident at just 23%. Only 1 in 3 (or 33%) felt they have a very good understanding of their weekly expenses versus income.

"Feeling like you've lost oversight of your finances and wondering where your money has gone at the end of the fortnight or month is an all too common predicament.

"The '*Budget Tracker*' online tool is linked to a customer's Internet Banking profile and helps them keep track of their incomings and outgoings. It is an intuitive tool that improves and becomes more valuable the more it is used," said Mr Skerman.

Suncorp Bank Internet Banking customer Timothy Vriesema said while he had tried various online budgeting tools, Suncorp Bank's *Budget Tracker* was by far the best he had used.

"I was impressed from the very start. With just two clicks, I was registered. The tool is very easy to navigate and I picked it up very quickly," said Mr Vriesema.

"All of the other budgeting tools I've used required separate logins and passwords and the manual entry of transactions, which was frustrating and time consuming and really made me want to seek out an alternative," he said.

"The best feature of Suncorp Bank's *Budget Tracker* is that it automatically categorises my spending and presents this in a graph form which gives me easy visibility of my income and expenses at a glance.

"Looking at these reports on a monthly basis helps me track my spending over the month and identify areas where I can save money and keep on target with my financial goals.

“This makes it so much easier to put extra money towards paying down your debt or going on a holiday for example. I’d recommend it to anyone.”

Suncorp Bank worked with Sandstone Technology to develop and implement the Budget Tracker.

To register and sign up for Budget Tracker, call 13 11 75 or for more information visit www.suncorpbank.au/budgettracker

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*The survey is of 2,015 transaction account holders over 18 years and the sample is nationally representative by age, gender and state.

About Suncorp Bank’s ‘Budget Tracker’

Registering

To register for Budget Tracker, you’ll need to be a Suncorp Bank Internet Banking customer.

Logon to Internet Banking; click on the Budget Tracker link; then accept the terms and conditions. Overnight, 3 months of your transactions will be uploaded into Budget Tracker.

The Suncorp Bank Budget Tracker can help you:

1. Understand your financial position

How does your income compare with your expenses? Budget Tracker will allow you to see your overall financial position at a glance.

2. Make your money work harder:

- Choose a transaction account that helps you avoid unnecessary fees and charges.
- Move your savings into a separate account as soon as you get paid.
- Choose a savings account that pays higher interest. If you know you aren’t going to need immediate access to your funds, Term Deposits or flexiRates may be a good option.

3. Set targets

Set income and expense targets by category and Budget Tracker will automatically apply your targets to future months.

You can vary your savings targets by month to take into account larger bills or times of higher spending, such as Christmas.

4. Project Savings

Create a ‘what if’ scenario

About Suncorp:

Suncorp is one of Australia and New Zealand’s largest diversified financial services providers, supplying banking, insurance and wealth management products to around 7 million customers through well-established and recognised brands such as AAMI, Australian Pensioners Insurance Agency, Shannons, Vero, Asteron and Tyndall, as well as Suncorp and GIO. Today Suncorp is Australia’s fifth largest bank and second largest domestic general insurance group, with over 16,000 staff. Suncorp has representation in 450 offices, branches and agencies throughout Australia and New Zealand.