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### Saving money is on everyone's lips in Queensland

Avoiding the need to iron by wearing a jumper and freezing your credit card in ice are just some of the quirky savings tips being bandied about on websites, Facebook pages, and Twitter accounts as Australians brace for future financial hurdles.

Suncorp Bank Executive Manager Craig Fenwick said in contrast to the property and investment-fuelled discussions of the past decade Australians had now turned their talk to curbing costs, conserving cash and getting back in the black.

"Once a community consumed by credit, the financial crises of the past few years have created a new savings chic in Australia and managing money is now the hottest topic on everyone's lips," Mr Fenwick said.

"Budgeting is a positive side-effect of the economic slowdown with a recent Suncorp Savings Survey\* revealing 82% of Queensland residents followed a budget and an additional 13% were extremely cautious with their money.

"This is in line with an increase in registrations for Suncorp's online budget tracker which have nearly doubled in the past three months."

Mr Fenwick said Australians had become thriftier and were working harder than ever to stretch their dollar further.

"It's a huge shift from the noughties when credit was cheap and carefree spending was in vogue," he said.

Suncorp recently asked its employees to share their quirky tried and true methods for saving a few extra dollars. Suncorp's Top Five Savings Tips -

1. **Swap and Save** Hold an annual swap event with friends and family and exchange unwanted clothes, furniture or garden tools for items you need.
2. **Hide your prize** Arrange for a portion of your pay to be automatically deposited into a high interest savings account that isn't attached to a card or internet banking. It's likely you'll forget it's there!
3. **Raid your pantry and fridge first** - Check what ingredients you might already have before hitting the supermarket. It's amazing what meals you can cook with a bit of creativity and what you've already got. Instant Savings!
4. **Embrace your inner granny** Master the art of sewing and baking. Mending can eliminate the need for replacement clothes and cooking muffins and biscuits can be a cheap way to fill lunch boxes. A bag of flour purchased for just a few dollars can make many loaves of bread.
5. **Research and reap rewards** Do your homework and work out what special offers you may be eligible for, especially when it comes to large expenses such as your mortgage. Suncorp Bank is currently offering new mortgage holders an interest rate discount of up to 1.03% for the life of the loan and up to \$200 off a new Suncorp insurance policy.

For more information on new home loans, managing your mortgage and savings visit [www.suncorp.com.au](http://www.suncorp.com.au) where helpful tools such as the Suncorp Budget Planning Calculator can be found. More information on Suncorp's online budget tracker can be found at <http://info.suncorp.com.au/bank/budgeting-tool/>

\* The Suncorp Savings Survey was commissioned by Suncorp and conducted independently by Pure Profile. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.