



E-NEWS

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Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network LTD



ICAN Update

ICAN made the environmentally conscious decision to upload the 2008 Annual Report onto our website instead of mailing printed copies. You can download it as a PDF document at www.ican.org.au or request an email copy by writing to info@ican.org.au. Check out a brief review on the year it was in this edition of the ICAN E-News.

ICAN Directors and Staff from Palm Island and Yarrabah Money Management Projects attended an in house research forum in Cairns earlier this month.

The purpose of the forum was to explore community consumer issues and develop culturally appropriate community research models. Research partnerships will be high on ICAN's agenda in 2009.

ICAN would like to thank IPA for providing a training room to hold the forum.



Pictured Above: ICAN Directors and staff catch up in Yarrabah before the Research Forum.

was invited to be a member of the Commonwealth Bank's (CBA) Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) working group. Robert contributed to the creation of the RAP with training and employment issues in remote Indigenous communities. Robert represented ICAN at the launch of CBA's RAP in Sydney on July 24, 2008.

ICAN welcomed the addition of a new accredited financial counsellor to our team in October 2008, who provides remote financial counselling support to the Yarrabah and Palm Island Money Management sites.

Carmen Daniels continued representation to Reconciliation Australia's (RA) "Indigenous Financial Services Network" (IFSN), a continuation of RA's "National Indigenous Money Management Agenda" (NIMMA). ICAN found extreme value in participating in this worthy forum. The IFSN space facilitated a platform for ICAN's project concept, the "Financial Counselling Mentorship Program", which has gone from proposal to implementation when the Commonwealth Bank provided sponsorship to ICAN for this program.

2008 - A Year of Growth

2008 has been a busy year for ICAN! This year, ICAN's focus was the growth of our organisation as a new not for profit company. In one short year, ICAN grew from a staff of four, to twelve people!

This year, we won the FaHCSIA tender to deliver money management services in Yarrabah and Palm Island Aboriginal communities in Far North Queensland. ICAN's money

management services are part of a larger agreement of welfare reform, which enabled ICAN to open offices in both communities. It's a great opportunity for ICAN to again provide service delivery at the community level and we are proud to have Kym Dann, Project Manager leading this program.

Robert Barry, Trainer for the "ICAN Personal Finance and Consumer Assistance Training" Program

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DISCLAIMER

"The information set out in this newsletter is a summary of some issues you should consider as consumers. It is not comprehensive and it is not legal advice. You should contact a community legal centre or a solicitor for legal advice about your situation. You can also obtain further information from the offices referred to in this publication"

ICAN's "Financial Counselling Mentorship Program" rolled out in the later part of 2008. An ongoing initiative to build the capacity of an Indigenous trainee through on the job training (Diploma of Community Services, Financial Counselling) and experience, ICAN developed the program with the aim to increase the levels of

Indigenous employment within the financial counselling industry. ICAN is pleased to have David Yorkston from Badu Island in the Torres Strait onboard with this program!

Aaron Davis, ICAN CEO has been working hard to continue the growth of ICAN's business while maintaining our core values and

services in the areas of: Education, Assistance and Advocacy. From all of the ICAN Directors and Staff, we wish to thank the many people and organisations who assisted ICAN in this year of growth as a not for profit company. We wish you a Happy Holiday and we look forward to working with you in 2009!

CREDIT CRUNCH

If your credit card gets a work out this Christmas, one way to get back on track is pay off more than the minimum monthly payment. The case study below illustrates how minimum repayments can affect the amount of money to be repaid.

Theresa

Theresa had spent all of her pay on food and presents for Christmas, so she got a cash advance of \$1000 on her credit card to get her through the off week. She paid the minimum repayment required by the credit provider for more than 12 months and didn't borrow or use her card again, yet after 12 months she still owed \$842.64.

This chart shows how long it will take Theresa to be rid of her \$1000 debt if she is charged interest at 19% per annum and she makes only the minimum repayment of 3% of the outstanding balance each month. No other fees have been taken into account in the following calculations.

The true cost of paying the minimum

Period	Minimum Payment	Interest Paid	Principal Balance	Remaining Balance
1 month	\$30.00	\$15.83	\$14.17	\$985.83
12 months	\$25.64	\$13.53	\$12.11	\$842.64
24 months	\$21.30	\$11.24	\$10.06	\$699.98
36 months	\$18.21	\$9.61	\$8.60	\$598.30
60 months	\$12.93	\$6.82	\$6.10	\$424.82
6 years	\$10.89	\$5.75	\$5.14	\$357.97
8 years	\$10.00	\$3.73	\$6.27	\$229.58
10 years	\$10.00	\$0.86	\$9.14	\$45.49
12.5 years	\$7.59	\$0.12	\$7.48	\$0.00

Theresa will take over 10 years to repay the \$1000 loan and she will pay \$889.36 interest as well.

If you need help sorting out your finances in the new-year give ICAN a call on 1300 369 878 or get some helpful tips from our website www.ican.org.au.