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Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network LTD

ICAN Update

ICAN staff headed down to Melbourne last month to attend the annual Australian Financial Counsellors and Credit Reform Association Conference. Yarrabah Team Leader, Drew Dangar presented the Wawal Gubu (Look at money) Money Management program in the financial inclusion and literacy forum with a number of great indigenous programs from around the country. ICAN would like to thank AFCCRA for organising a special day before the conference that gave indigenous workers throughout Australia the opportunity to meet and discuss their programs and issues.

ICAN CEO, Aaron Davis visited Thursday Island earlier this month to launch a new partnership with Mura Kosker Sorority. The Consumer Outreach Program partnership is a first for the Torres Strait, providing access to a financial counselling and financial literacy training. You can find out more in this edition of the ICAN E-News.



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A Champion Passes

ICAN received the shocking news today that Jan Pentland, Chair of the Australian Financial Counsellors and Credit Reform



Above: Jan Pentland and Tricia Ross at the recent Indigenous Forum dinner.

Association (AFCCRA) has passed away. Jan will be remembered by ICAN for her tireless work in promoting the development of indigenous financial counsellors and money management workers throughout Australia. After leading the creation of AFCCRA's Reconciliation Action Plan, Jan set about ensuring there were more indigenous people in the financial counselling industry and created a network of indigenous people working in this space.

On behalf of the ICAN staff and board our sincerest condolences go out to Jan's family and friends. We will all miss her dearly.

Aaron Davis
CEO, ICAN

In my last article I wrote about how my daughter saved her money. Whilst I was doing that article I wondered how my mum ever managed and budget her money. I come from a large family of 7 brother and 3 sisters. Can you imagine the fights we had (hahahaha).

My topic today is a question for yourselves to think about and answer, and maybe you can build up the courage to ask your mother/father how they did it.

Now that I am working and earning all this money I sometimes wonder, well not sometimes, all the time, how my mother supported us financially. There was always food on the table and we always had our

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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'

needs for schools and household. I think after all these years that I've worked it out how my mother budgeted her finances. I put it down to my mother being very disciplined, which she had to be because of the little amount of money that she received. It seems the more money you earn, the more you spend. I'm a good example of this; we were on one wage in Brisbane and managed with this, it was very hard at times but we managed. Now that we have two incomes, I seem to spend more and am still in the same position that we were at in Brisbane. If I was as disciplined as I was in Brisbane then we'd be laughing (saving not spending). I suppose by determining the difference between wants and needs is very important and my mother was very good at this. We only got needs for the house hold and if my mother had any spare money she may buy 'wants,' such as ice-cream, lollies or chocolates and toys. I really can't remember if I had a birthday party (I must of, hahaha) but I can recall just getting a present would brighten up my day.

Nowadays kids are not satisfied with 1 present they want 100 more and very expensive ones. I regard myself a very lucky person to have a mother that gave everything to her children and hopefully one day we can give her something back in return but all I know is that if we are happy then she is happy. You know we work for good wages and when we compare back to how much our parents got, well they got mittens. How did my mother manage to budget for a household of 10 and not one day complained about it? I got to thank her for that. I reckon that my mother is the best budgeter out there and when I go back home I may sit with her and ask her how she did it. This I hope will give me a lesson in budgeting that I can then pass on to my daughter whom I blame for spending more money (jokes hahaha). Has anyone of you sat with your mother or parents to ask how they managed when it was a lot tougher and harder for them (well where I come from that was the case).

Lesson learned for myself; the saving and budgeting area has not been passed down from my mother to me but, the good thing I hope, is that, it has been passed down to my daughter whom shall I say asked her mother for all the money that she has saved (I think she said it was like \$200 that she has saved), to buy herself a dog for her birthday. I know that I did not save enough like I should. I try to be disciplined, but I just can't help myself. I may spend money on my lunches like \$20 a day and if you add that up through the year, if you put that \$20 away a day than u may save up to \$5000 a year. What's so hard about getting up in the morning and making lunch or bringing left over's to work, I don't know but I seem not to be able to do it. I will make a pact for the next 3 months I will bring my lunches into work and put that \$20 away under the mattress and when the 3 months is up I will count how much I have saved, unless my daughter reads this and gets there first (hahaha). Until next time, 'Smart Savings'.

T.I Partnership First

Mura Kosker Sorority Inc. and the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network Ltd (ICAN) have just signed off on a partnership first that will see the delivery of financial counselling services in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. Mura Kosker will provide ICAN the necessary workspace to provide financial counselling and training for a week each month.

ICAN CEO, Aaron Davis said, "ICAN saw an unmet need in the Torres Strait during a visit to Saibai and Duaun Islands in mid 2007. We have since worked towards creating community partnerships and funding opportunities to provide our services up here. ICAN recently received funding from the John Villiers Trust and the Queensland Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund that enabled us to roll out this important

outreach program." Mura Kosker Manager, Latoya Nakata said, "This will be a new service for our region that we hope will meet the needs of our community and help to address financial hardship situations. Mura Kosker also sees an opportunity to build the capacity within our own organisation in these areas."



Pictured Above: The team at Mura Kosker Sorority, Thursday Island.

The partnership will kick off on the 17th and 18th of August with the delivery of the Commonwealth Bank sponsored ICAN Personal Finance and Consumer Assistance Training Program that aims to build the financial capacity of community services providers. Training topics include: Preparing a budget, Saving Money, Manage Debt, Consumer Credit, Your Credit File, Banking and Better Buying. If you

would like to participate in the training please call Mura Kosker on 40691663.