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Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network LTD



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ICAN Update

January is the month of new beginnings, when people strive to make important changes in their lives. After a year of rapid growth, ICAN has made a very important change and moved the head office to 1/192 Mulgrave Road, Cairns.



The new office will provide much needed space to carry out our functions efficiently, with multiple client interview rooms, filing storage and a spacious reception area. We look forward to welcoming clients and stakeholders alike. ICAN is planning to have an official launch in upcoming months, so stay tuned.

ICAN will be re-developing our website in 2010 to incorporate WEB 2.0 technologies including, a PHP search facility, news feed and a linked social networking space. ICAN will review existing

content from the website developed in 2005 and strive to keep information clear and concise. The new website will promote both ICAN program successes and the supporters that help to make them happen.

From the team at ICAN, have a great new year and may all your New Years resolutions stick!

being cut off over the holiday period. Jane was originally flattered at the loan offer as she had not been able to access mainstream credit.

ICAN CEO Aaron Davis said, "I would ask Chrisco, why would you refer a client to Hopscotch when they weren't even keeping up with their Chrisco payments? Knowing how popular Chrisco is in Indigenous communities, I'm concerned that this coordinated network may have targeted many others. The bottom line is, lenders need to lend responsibly."

ICAN has identified serious breaches of Australian regulations and has engaged the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and Queensland Office of Fair Trading on this issue. From a simple [Google search](#), it appears that these practices have crossed the Tasman.

From Chrisco to Debt is as Easy as 1,2,3

Chrisco, Hopscotch and Debtworks NZ offer Christmas, credit and collections in just 6 weeks. All three companies tied to New Zealand "Rich Lister", Richard Bradley have caused holiday heartbreak for one single mum on Thursday Island. During an enquiry call to Chrisco, Jane was directed to finance company Hopscotch to obtain a loan despite being behind in her

Chrisco payments.

Within 6 weeks of receiving the loan, Jane had fallen into default and Debtworks NZ was ready to collect. The finance repayments, on top of her Chrisco repayments became too much for the single mum. Trying to keep up with the repayments from her meager Centrelink income resulted in the electricity

ICAN Financial Counsellor Tricia Ross said, "We hope to have the No Interest Loans Scheme up and running on Thursday Island early this year and give people on low incomes an affordable option to buy household items. The ICAN financial counseling team is keen to hear from any people hit by this recent predatory behavior."