



Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

MEDIA RELEASE

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Saver Plus wins MoneySmart Week Community Award

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is proud today to jointly receive the inaugural MoneySmart Week Community Award for Saver Plus, its national financial capacity-building program.

'This is a wonderful recognition for the difference this program is making in people's lives, which we have run in partnership with ANZ for 10 years,' said Brotherhood of St Laurence Executive Director Tony Nicholson.

'Saver Plus plays an important role in building the financial capabilities of people on lower incomes, which in turn helps break the cycle of disadvantage that can affect low-income communities.

'Saver Plus was developed through an innovative partnership between ANZ and the Brotherhood in 2002. I hope that the success of this partnership demonstrates how well corporate and charitable Australia can come together to tackle social problems.'

Since 2003 the program has reached over 14,000 people and aims to reach an additional 11,000 people by June 2014. Saver Plus participants have saved over \$6.5 million as part of the program, which is delivered by 11 community agencies across 61 communities in all states and territories.

Australia's first and largest matched savings and financial education program, Saver Plus assists lower-income Australians to build a lasting savings habit by strengthening their financial skills, knowledge and confidence. Participants undertake the MoneyMinded financial education course and save for educational purposes; savings up to \$500 are matched, dollar for dollar. ANZ and the Australian Government now fund the program, with ANZ also providing the matched savings for participants.

To qualify for Saver Plus people must be over 18 years old, have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card, have regular income from paid employment, have children enrolled in school or be attending or returning to vocational education themselves.

'We would particularly like to thank our Saver Plus partners – Berry Street, The Benevolent Society, and The Smith Family – as well as Saver Plus staff and clients over the past 10 years. The success of Saver Plus is a credit to the dynamic working relationships developed by them,' said Mr Nicholson.

This week, 2-8 September, is the first MoneySmart Week, which promotes financial literacy.

- For more information about Saver Plus including research reports and locations go to www.bsl.org.au/saver-plus and www.anz.com/saverplus.
- A list of Saver Plus locations is attached.

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[Saver Plus locations](#)