

Media Release

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## Getting sorted in Otago this New Year

Online financial planning tools on sorted.org.nz have got the thumbs up from Kiwis who're taking steps to get their finances sorted this New Year.

The [My Goals worksheet](#) on sorted.org.nz can help you get on track, and you can also sign up for TXT or email reminders, to help you keep on track. The [budget calculator](#) will also help you get ahead.

Sorted.org.nz also offers calculators to help with other aspects of financial planning, including managing debt, saving and investing.

Sorted users who've already used sorted.org.nz to help set their New Year's resolutions include Davinia Thornley from Dunedin. Davinia's set some specific savings goals for 2009.

"For a long time I was afraid of money - when I didn't have any it didn't matter, but then when I got on to a better income I had to get over my fear so I could make good decisions."

She says taking the first steps is exiting. "Just getting the budget and cash flow on paper was huge. It gives you the confidence to take bigger steps."

Davinia has used some of the tools on sorted.org.nz and says it's user-friendly. She says the My Goals worksheet is useful because it encourages you to put dates on your action plan. "It keeps you accountable."

Another sorted.org.nz user is Sean Parker from Feilding.

"Before I went on that website, my finances could best be described as "loose" so it's certainly helped me tighten my own pockets," says Sean. He found it helpful to make the actions towards achieving his goals as specific as possible, for example writing down exactly how much money he will put into the hire purchase each week.

Bevan Bailey of Hamilton is also a sorted.org.nz user. Bevan's goal is to stop spending more than he earns and he's worked out the steps he'll take to get there, including living within a budget and not using credit for day to day purchases. He's starting 2009 with a weekly budget to follow.

"I have given unnecessary spending the chop so now I have a budget that works for me."

Retirement Commissioner Diana Crossan is encouraging other Kiwis to spend a quiet hour or two over the holidays sorting out a financial plan.

"Taking a few simple steps now such as setting goals, developing a budget and managing your cash flow will pay off later in the year."

There's also a free step-by-step financial guide available. The 16 page booklet: 'Sorted - Your guide to getting there' is available from ANZ and National Bank branches and some Pak'n Save stores in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. You can also order the free guide by calling 0800 SORT MONEY (0800 767 866) or online at [www.sorted.org.nz/ordering](http://www.sorted.org.nz/ordering).

**Note:** Please find below tips for getting your finances on track in 2009.

## Tips for getting your finances on track in 2009

- **Set goals**

Write them down, put a timeframe on them, and keep them where you can refer back to them regularly. Use the My Goals worksheet on sorted.org.nz and you can sign up for reminders by TXT or email. <http://www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/my-goals/>

- **Make a budget**

Making a budget that suits you can be one of your most powerful tools for getting ahead financially. The Budget calculator on sorted.org.nz makes it easy. <http://www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/budget/>

- **Manage your cash flow**

A budget helps you plan where your money should be going, cashflow shows you where the money goes in reality. After you've completed your budget, track your actual spending with the Cashflow calculator. <http://www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/cashflow/>  
Or before you go shopping, find out the true cost of paying for your purchases with Sorted's spendometer. <http://www.sorted.org.nz/spendometer/>

- **Control your debt**

Debt isn't all bad, but allowing it to get out of control is. Find out what your options are in Sorted's Managing debt section. <http://www.sorted.org.nz/home/sorted-sections/managing-debt>

- **Start saving**

Regular saving can help you towards a specific goal (like a new car or a holiday) or longer term plans (like retirement or buying a house). The Regular savings calculator on sorted.org.nz shows how much your savings will add up to over time. <http://www.sorted.org.nz/calculators/regular-savings/>

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