

Do you regularly run out of money?

Is there too much
month left at the end
of the money?



Finances

Whether your finances are a bit under the weather or fighting fit, it's always a good idea to keep track of your money. Do you know what's coming in, and where it all goes to? Would you be able to find money in a hurry if you had to – to pay an unexpected bill, for instance?

The best way to take stock of your money situation is to make a budget – list everything that's coming in and where it's going and don't forget occasional items, like birthdays, Christmas presents, holidays or even home repairs. Review your budget regularly and if circumstances change, look at it again.

Whether you're in debt or have some money to put aside, once you know what your money situation is, it's a good idea to see if there are ways you can make more of your money. If you can make it a habit over time, regular savings – however small – will add up. The earlier you start saving, the more money you will have to help you achieve your goals... or to retire on.

Do...

- Keep a spending diary so you know where your money goes.
- Check that you're making the most of the State benefits and allowances available.
- Try to put aside enough money to live on for at least one week to begin with building it up to 3 months if you can. This could be used as an emergency fund for when that unexpected bill comes in.

Don't...

- Worry if the amounts you save are small – they quickly add up.
- Put off saving until next month – start now.
- Believe only others lose their jobs or get into financial difficulties – it can happen to anyone.

REMEMBER...

Spending money is not the problem.
Spending money you don't have is.

If you have problems budgeting for bills, then BACCU can help. We have a bill payment scheme you could use. If you're interested, what are you waiting for – pick up the phone and give us a ring.