



# TRACE A PLACE

ANY BUNNY CAN BUDGET!

(WHERE DID ALL THE MONEY GO? ....)

c/- Service to Youth Council Inc.,  
128 Glen Osmond Road,  
Parkside. S.A. 5063.  
Phone 272 2544.



ANY BUNNY CAN BUDGET!

(Where did all the money go .....)

A budget is a way of keeping track of how much money you must pay out each week or fortnight and how much you earn. It can help stop you getting into debt by overspending. It may also help you save for that holiday that you want.

Budgeting sounds boring, complicated and definitely not your cup of tea. Well, it can be simple, quick and a big help. Here's one way of doing it.

STEP ONE: HOW MUCH DO YOU GET?

(Weekly income (after tax) \$ .....

STEP TWO: HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE TO PAY OUT?

Weekly Expenses

Board or rent	\$ .....
Food	\$ .....
Fares or Petrol	\$ .....
Clothing	\$ .....
*Gas and/or Electricity	\$ .....
Health Insurance	\$ .....
**Telephone	\$ .....
***Car Maintenance/and/or repairs	\$ .....
****Hire Purchases/Other Credit payments	\$ .....
Entertainment	\$ .....
Savings	\$ .....
	-----
TOTAL	\$
	=====

STEP THREE: HOW MUCH IS LEFT OVER?

Subtract how much you need to spend (your weekly expenses) from how much you get.

Weekly Income	\$ .....
- Weekly Expenses	\$ .....
	-----
TOTAL	\$
	=====

- If you've got a little money left over from these expenses, then it can be used to pay for unexpected things like a broken shoe, or anything else that you desperately need.
- If you've got no money left over, then you might have problems if the rent gets more expensive for example. If this happened, then you would not have enough money to pay the extra costs.
- If worse still, your expenses are more than your income - help!

You will need to:

- (1) See if you can cut down on any of your expenses. For example, you could use your car (if you have one) less and use buses more. This would save some petrol expenses. Or you may need to cut down on those entertainment expenses.

- (2) If you know that you are not going to be able to pay a bill that is due in say two weeks time, then you can go and see the people to whom you owe money. If you do this before the time to pay the bill, then they will often let you pay it off over a longer period of time.
- (3) As a last possible resort - that is if you've tried the other two options and you're still in the "red" - you can go and see someone about borrowing some money to cover your expenses. But, remember this money has to be paid back also. Can you afford to pay it back?

\* GAS AND/OR ELECTRICITY

The electricity bill has to be paid every "quarter" or every three months. The cost of this account will vary depending upon whether you use many electrical appliances like radiators, clothes dryers or not. If you do use these appliances often (and have only electricity supplied - no gas), you may expect an account to cost as much as \$100-00 per quarter.

Gas accounts are sent out every two months. In a house/flat, gas can be used for cooking, hot water supply and heating. But, as a general rule, the more gas that you use the higher the gas bill will be. This usually means that your electricity bill will be less than it would otherwise have been. For example, a three-bedroom house using gas for most things except lighting would on average receive a bill of approximately \$30-00 per quarter for gas and \$40-00 for electricity. This is a house where no clothes dryers, bar heaters etc. are used often though!

On the whole, gas serviced house-holds are cheaper to run than only electricity ones.

\*\* TELEPHONES

Telephones can be very expensive. So, it's a good idea to pay for your calls as you use the phone. Having a tin or money box next to the phone helps people to remember to do this! Local calls will usually cost 12 cents per call. But if you put 20¢ per call in the tin for example, you will have some extra money to pay for the rental of the telephone.

The rental is that charge which Telecom makes for the phone being in your house/flat. It has to be paid in advance and costs \$26-25 per "quarter" (i.e. every 3 months). You will have to pay for the calls that you've made every 3 months as well.

It is helpful to remember that S.T.D. (long distance) calls during the daytime are very expensive. They are cheaper after 9 o'clock of a night.

When you move into a house/flat that has the telephone connected, it is a good idea to decide quickly whether you can afford to keep it on or not. There are charges for changing the account into your name and these can be \$30-00 or more.

The longer you put off doing the "change-over" the more expensive it can become.

\*\*\* CAR MAINTENANCE

If you own a car then you probably forget about the expenses of repairs and running costs like the rest of us. Repairs can be quite expensive so it's a good idea to have some money put away "just in case". Perhaps you could learn to do simple things like changing the oil of your car instead of paying money to have someone else do it for you.

The costs of car maintenance will depend upon how much you use the car, how old it is and what condition its parts are in. You can count on having to pay out at least \$20-00 every 2 months for servicing the car. Sometimes this may be a lot more, especially if there are any repairs involved.

On top of these costs you've got to replace tyres when they're worn out and pay for registration of the vehicle. Again, this depends upon what type of car you have. But it can cost approximately \$140 per year for a small car.

#### HIRE PURCHASE

\*\*\*\* If you have items on credit of some kind; hire purchase, bankcard for example, you will have to include these payments within the weekly expense column. Check your budget to see if you can afford these things before committing yourself to a contract.

So .... Budgeting is not that hard to do. It is hard to budget well when you don't get enough money to cover all these expenses though. Still, for those of us living "close to the breadline", it may make the difference between staying out of debt or getting in way over our heads.

#### Remember

The gas, electricity and telephone bills all tend to arrive about the same time so you must put some money away each week towards them. Otherwise you will end up with many debts and no money to pay them.

