

Financial Counselling

Financial checklist after separation or relationship breakdown

Budgeting

- Gather paperwork – payslips, bank account statements, bills, contracts (loans and rentals) and receipts.
- Do a budget: Make a list of your income and expenditure.
- Do a financial stocktake of your assets (house, car, superannuation etc) and liabilities (debts).
- Prioritise and deal with urgent bills/loan payments.
- Contact the Department of Human Services about eligibility for Child Support or Centrelink.

Bank accounts

- Open a bank account in your own name.
- Close joint bank accounts (consent from joint account holder).
- Cancel secondary cards on your account (if applicable).
- Consider changing your passwords and PIN.
- Arrange Centrelink or wages to be paid into new bank account.

Car

- Contact Dept of Transport to update your address.
- Request transfer of car registration into (or out of) your name.
- If you have a secured car loan and you are not able to meet your repayments, contact the lender and ask for hardship assistance.

Mortgage

- Complete a budget and determine if you are able to meet your mortgage payments.
- Tell the lender that you have separated, if it has impacted on your ability to meet your mortgage payments.
- If the loan is in joint names, contact the lender and explain your situation. Consider applying for financial hardship assistance (postpone or reduce mortgage payments), while you consider longer term options.
- Decide if you are going to stay in the house or find alternative accommodation.
- Contact the utility providers and arrange for immediate connection or disconnection of utility service.

Rental/lease

- Contact the landlord or real estate agent to change the lease into (or out of) your name.
- Get legal or tenancy advice to discuss the implications of breaking your lease (if applicable).
- Contact the utility provide and arrange for immediate connection or disconnection of utility service.

Debt

- Complete a budget and determine if you are able to meet your mortgage payments.
- Tell the lender that you have separated, if it has impacted on your ability to meet your loan payments.
- If the loan is in joint names, contact the lender and explain your situation. Consider applying for financial hardship assistance (postpone or reduce mortgage payments), while you consider longer term options.

Professional advice

- Contact a local community legal centre.
- Contact a lawyer, and consider property mediation to sort out property settlement, joint loans and children arrangements.
- Contact the Family Relationship Advice Line 1800 050 321 for advice on separation issues and referrals.
- Speak to a Financial Counsellor – offer free and independent information, options and advocacy to help people take control and manage their financial situation.

Children

- Consider Family Dispute Resolution/Mediation to address any issues/arrangements relating to the children.
- Contact the Department of Human Services to discuss child support or other income support.
- Inform your child's school that you have separated.
- Work out a plan to pay for school and children expenses.

Other

- Update your will.
- Update the beneficiaries for life, funeral insurance and superannuation funds.

Contact Us

Metropolitan services

1300 11 44 46

Armadale

Lottery House
Suite 5/122 Forrest Road

Joondalup

Sanori House, Suite 9
Level 1/126 Grand Boulevard

Rockingham

St Nicholas' Community Centre
14 Council Avenue

Regional services

Albany

44 Collie Street
9845 6655

Busselton

St Mary's Anglican Centre
119-121 Queen Street
9754 1858

Katanning

Shop 13, Central Arcade
100 Clive Street
9821 9666

Mt Barker

1/59 Lowood Road
9851 2611

Bunbury

15 Molloy Street
9792 1900

Collie

Collie Community House
Cnr Lefroy and Forrest Streets
9754 1858

Manjimup

Community Centre
Cnr Mount and Rose Streets
9777 1945