



Media Release

29 August 2014

MoneySmart Week Demand for Financial Counselling higher than ever

MoneySmart Week (1 – 7 September 2014) is just around the corner and **The Salvation Army Moneycare Financial Counselling Service** is challenging Australians to take charge of their finances and to seek help sooner, rather than later, before their financial situation gets out of control.

The Salvation Army Moneycare Financial Counsellor, Kristen Hartnett, says with people having to take more responsibility for their financial lives than at any other time in history, it has become extremely important for individuals and families to increase their awareness of their current financial situation.

“Moneycare is passionate about giving people the skills needed to navigate this increasingly complex and fast paced world,” Ms Hartnett said.

“We see improvements in relationships, health and wellbeing when people feel their financial situation is under control.”

In the financial year ending 30 June 2014, The Salvation Army Moneycare Financial Counselling Service saw a dramatic increase in people seeking help with their finances:

- 7,484 new cases presented (9% increase on the previous financial year);
- Client satisfaction level was 99.6%; and
- 500 community education sessions conducted.

Kristen Hartnett says the recent redevelopment of the Moneycare “**You’re the Boss**” educational program recognises the importance of education, by providing people the knowledge and skills to enable them to take early action and to remedy difficult financial situations which they may be facing.

“The You’re the Boss program is written in a readily understandable, conversational format which portrays key messages in an empowering engaging manner,” she said.

“Our easy to read program opens up the discussions on what is the generally private subject of money and gives people the skills and resources to manage their own financial situation.”

For more information on The Salvation Army Moneycare Financial Counselling Service, please visit the website at salvos.org.au/moneycare.

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