

INTRODUCTION

The creation of material wealth and an increase in financial prosperity are goals to which most people aspire, no matter what their current situation.

The rich want to become richer. The poor want to become financially secure. Those in between want to move higher up the ladder of financial success.

Financial security also provides a way for us to fulfil broader family or community responsibilities and to realise our broader aspirations, creating a better future for those who depend on us. Greater wealth can create greater security for our parents and greater opportunities for our children.

Although almost all of us aspire to be wealthier than we are, many of us are frustrated in our pursuit of this goal by a sense of unrealised potential, of lost opportunity and lack of control over our own financial destinies.

What few of us realise is that, with a little understanding and basic planning, we already hold the key to achieving greater wealth without having to work even harder or earn even more. What is important is learning how to make our money work better for us.

Wealth Wisdom for Everyone provides us with a set of practical tools to create, manage, protect and grow our own personal wealth in a more efficient manner: The Annual Budget, Monthly Budget Tracker and Personal Wealth Schedule forms attached at the back of this book can be completed to help you develop your own unique Wealth Wisdom Plan.

Throughout this book you will also be presented with insights and ideas which can provide answers to such questions as:

- *Where can I best invest my money so it achieves the objectives I set for myself?*
- *What are the biggest mistakes people usually make in investing? Why is that? How can I avoid these mistakes?*
- *How should we think about managing our careers – is maximising next year's income the best way to build wealth? If not, what is the best approach to career management?*
- *When should I start saving?*
- *Are there any practical ideas I can use to start to teach my children or grandchildren about financial responsibility? About social responsibility?*
- *What is the right level of expense?*
- *How much money should I save to achieve my financial objectives?*

- *Who should do a financial plan?*
- *When do I need to redo my financial plan?*
- *Is having a will enough, or should I do more for estate planning?*

By reading and applying the contents of *Wealth Wisdom for Everyone*, you will be well placed to answer these questions from an informed position and you will have in hand many of the tools and approaches needed to improve the content and value of your own unique financial plan.

As the experts remind us, if you don't control your finances, they will control you.