



Amanda Rishworth MP
Member for Kingston
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Rudd Government delivers for first home buyers in Kingston

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP, today welcomed the introduction of the Rudd Government's new First Home Saver Accounts.

The new accounts, which will be available from October 2008, provide a simple, tax effective way to save a deposit for a first home through a combination of a Government contribution and low taxes.

Ms Rishworth MP said: 'Many Australians either own their own home, or aspire, one day to own a home – but today housing is less affordable than at any time in our history.

'The size of the first home mortgage has more than doubled in eight years – and is now nearly \$250,000.

'Young people in particular are finding it harder than ever to save a big enough deposit – especially if they are living away from home.

'That's why the Rudd Government is establishing First Home Saver Accounts.'

Already the ANZ and Commonwealth Banks, as well as 18 other financial institutions like credit unions, have said that they will offer the new accounts.

Account holders will receive a cash contribution of up to \$850 a year from the Australian Government to help them save a home deposit.

'Eighteen year olds in their first jobs can start off putting as little as \$20 a week into a First Home Saver Account and increase their contributions as their pay increases over the years, said Ms Rishworth MP

'By the time they are in their late-20s or 30s and are thinking about buying a house – perhaps with their partner – they will have a nice little nest egg.

'One of the other innovations of these new accounts is that parents and grandparents can contribute as well.

'So personal savings made by young Australians can be enhanced by deposits from family members – perhaps as a 21st birthday present – as well as contributions from the Government.

'I encourage all prospective home buyers in Kingston electorate to contact their financial institutions to see if they are providing the new accounts.'

For more information, please contact my office or visit:

<http://homesaver.treasury.gov.au/content/default.asp>