

**PARENT TOPIC 3  
MONEY - KEEPING TRACK**

# Budget Pressure Points & Priorities

**Some of the budget pressure points that break the budget can be:**

**Bills** – usually come in quarterly (every three months) or once a year. Now there are penalties for late payment, disconnection and re-connection fees. Budgeting for these regular expenses can save you money.

**Credit cards** – payments usually occur the same time each month. Make sure you pay by the due date. Try to pay more than the minimum payment if you can. Even better pay all of what you owe by the due date and you will not incur interest costs.

**Christmas/birthdays** – they may happen just once a year but are usually expensive - plan ahead. Hint: Look at the Birthday party budget task in *MakingCents: Budgeting and spending*.

**School** – the start of each school year can be expensive. School excursions or school events happen each term and the costs can build up.

**Family/friends** – a family member or friend may need help with money or comes to stay for a while.

**Partner debt** – when a partner blows the budget OR racks up debts & leaves you with the debt.

**Medical expenses** – these are often unexpected or can be regular costs if dealing with an ongoing condition.

**Fines/debts** – fines for parking, speeding, train & bus fares, OR Centrelink debts.

**Car registration & insurance** – usually once a year. Sometimes car insurance can be paid monthly but this method is likely to cost you more over the whole year.

**Car repairs or accidents** – usually when you least expect it and can least afford it.

**Loans** – depends on the amount of the fortnightly or monthly repayments.

## Any others?

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