

# Australians want financial confidence and clarity; most don't know where to start

## Only 1 in 3 Australians feel confident in managing their finances

With just one in three Australians feeling confident managing their finances, there is a clear need for accessible tools and guidance to help more people take control of their financial situation.

According to new research from MLC, conducted by McCrindle, only 34% of Australians surveyed feel confident in managing their finances. Confidence was lowest amongst those aged 46-60 (29%), with women less likely to describe themselves as financially confident compared to men (29% compared to 39%).

For many, the biggest barriers to financial confidence are knowing where to start and finding the right support. 35% say online tools and calculators would make a difference, while 34% believe online education and guidance would help them build confidence.

The data also shows what would give Australians the greatest sense of financial clarity: having a budget in place (46%), having a retirement plan (35%), and visibility over expenses (29%).

According to MLC Chief Customer Officer, Renee Howie: "Everyone's financial journey is different; whether you're saving for a home, supporting a family or planning for retirement. But the need for financial clarity is universal.

"The reality is, not everyone is able to access financial advice. That's why it's so important to meet people where they are and provide them with relevant tools to help build their confidence and take control of their finances.

"It's why we've launched MLC Money View, an innovative digital tool available for all Australians at no cost that brings together budgeting, expense tracking and goal setting with insights and a projection of your financial future.

"Tools like MLC Money View are a game changer for everyday Australians who genuinely want financial clarity but perhaps aren't sure about where to start.

"The tool provides a real time, holistic view of a user's financial situation through a secure, customisable dashboard, which they can save and revisit at any time. Users simply input key personal and financial details to get started."

MLC Money View can help users understand whether they're on track to reach their goals, the value of their home or investment property, monitor how their budget is tracking and determine if they're on course for retirement. It can also help users to understand if they have the right level of insurance in place.



"MLC is committed to helping more Australians gain the financial clarity they need to take control of their finances to enjoy life now and into retirement.

"Financial confidence isn't just for the wealthy or those that can afford financial advice, it's something every Australian should have, and MLC is here to support that journey, every step of the way," Ms Howie added.

Access the MLC Money View tool and find out more here.

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### About MLC

MLC is an Australian business that provides investments and superannuation solutions to corporate, institutional, and retail customers. Its purpose is to create future confidence for Australians through superannuation, professional financial advice, asset management and modern investment platforms underpinned by leading technologies.

MLC is part of the Insignia Financial Group, which consists of Insignia Financial Ltd ABN 49 100 103 722 and its related bodies corporate. Insignia Financial Ltd is listed in the top 200 companies on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: IFL). As one of the largest wealth managers in Australia, with over 175 years' experience in helping Australians secure their financial wellbeing, the Insignia Financial Group provides services to more than 1.5 million clients and has more than \$311.4 billion in funds under management and administration (as at 30 June 2024).

Learn more about MLC at <u>www.mlc.com.au</u>.

#### **About MLC Money View**

MLC Money View is offered by Actuate Alliance Services Pty Ltd ABN 40 083 233 925, ASFL 240959 (Actuate). Actuate is a part of the Insignia Financial Group.

#### Methodology

This media release is based on data collected through a nationally representative online survey (by gender, age and state) of 1,005 Australians commissioned by MLC and conducted by McCrindle from March 3-7, 2025.

Source: MLC Financial Confidence and Clarity Insights – McCrindle Survey, March 2025