



Budgeting and Saving A long term commitment

Now is as good a time as any to start planning your budget and savings plan.

Make your money work for you.

You can make your money work for you by creating a budget and saving towards your future goals.

It can help you get your spending on track and even uncover some hidden cash flow problems that once solved, may free up more money you can put away to save toward other financial goals like retirement, a new home or for unexpected life events.

Two heads are better than one

Whether you share household income and expenses or are single, setting a budget can help you manage your spending and achieve your financial goals. Remember, it's never a bad thing to seek advice. Consult with a professional regularly to ensure that you don't fall behind with your savings.

Smart reasons to budget



[CLICK HERE](#)
to use the
Sanlam tax calculator

- ⌵ Saving more money
- ⌵ Reducing spending
- ⌵ Breaking the cycle of living from month to month
- ⌵ Avoiding spending money you don't have
- ⌵ Getting out of debt
- ⌵ Avoiding unexpected debt
- ⌵ Making sure that your money goes towards your goals, and staying on track to achieve them
- ⌵ Staying on track for a comfortable retirement



Don't let the festive season and special occasions leading up to the January rush creep up on you and leave you unprepared for the new year.

It's never too early, or late to ease the pressure, take the stress off and put money into a savings fund to help you fund for future expenses when required.

Use a budget to plan for irregular expenses like:

- › Festive season holidays
- › Car services
- › Birthdays
- › Back-to-school expenses
- › Gifts
- › Unexpected medical expenses

Calculate how much you need at retirement



Register here on the [Sanlam Member Portal](#) to access the calculator and see how much you need to save to reach your goals and retire with confidence.

Don't be too hard on yourself

Budgeting is like going on a diet. You start out highly motivated and with good intentions, but after a while, you may drift away from your plan and start becoming inconsistent. Be patient, stay committed and focused on the end goal as it may take a few months to fully get into the rhythm of saving and get a handle on your budget. The process will require you to be disciplined, focused and goal oriented.

It may not be perfect in the beginning, but you will get there with time. Remember, it's never too late to start budgeting, no matter what your age is or whatever stage you are in your life.

Scrutinise spending habits

To prepare a realistic budget, you may need to first **get a handle on what you are spending your money on**. It is a good idea to track your expenses for about 30 days to establish a clear picture.

Consider the outcome and adjust your budget, trimming and reassessing where necessary. Continue this practice for the next three months to gauge where you can change your budget.

Budgeting tools

Find a method that best suits you. Put pen to paper, use spreadsheets, or use an online budgeting tool or App that will track your spending.

Budget cuts

Revisit your budget regularly – optimise your savings and don't be afraid to cut the excess.

Consider the necessities vs the “nice-to-haves”. If things are tight, you can save money by reducing luxuries. Making small changes like shopping around for discounts, bulk buying and being more prudent in how you spend money can contribute to better overall savings. The budget cuts may be temporary and, if so, you can always make adjustments later.

Identify your financial goals

Drafting a budget can help you accomplish more with your money and help you save and achieve long-term financial goals such as:

- › Saving for retirement
- › Building an emergency fund
- › Buying a house
- › Purchasing a new vehicle
- › Paying off debt
- › Saving for tertiary studies
- › Saving for a holiday or other big purchases

