eligible dependent full-time student aged 21 to 24 years

Category 2

This is a temporary supplement to the Education Entry Payment (EdEP) of \$950 and is in addition to the existing EdEP payment of \$208. EdEP is currently paid to a range of social security recipients who are commencing study, including Newstart allowance and Parenting Payment Partnered recipients.

If a student attracts the Government's Back to School bonus they are NOT eligible for the one-off \$950.00 Learning & Training Bonus. This bonus will be paid to eligible recipients by Centrelink in the fortnight beginning 24 March 2009.

Farmer's Hardship Bonus

The Government will make a one-off payment of \$950 to assist farmers experiencing hardship due to drought conditions and others receiving

Exceptional Circumstances related income support. Eligible recipients will be those who on 3 February 2009 are in receipt of:

Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment for Farmers

Interim Income Support for Farmers

Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment for Small Business

Interim Income Support for Small Business

Transitional Income Support and

Farm Help Income Support

The payment is \$950 for each recipient. A single bonus of \$950 will be paid to eligible households, irrespective of whether the eligible payment they receive is paid at a single or couple rate.

The payment will be made automatically by Centrelink in the fortnight commencing 24 March 2009. Eligible recipients do not need to contact Centrelink to receive a payment.

It is also important to note that all five of the bonus payments are not taxable or counted as income for income support purposes.

Please also note that at the time of writing, these measures had not fully passed through the Houses of Parliament as Law.

While the working Australians bonus of \$900.00 is based on taxable income for 2008, the remaining incentives are based on 2009 income figures and therefore need to be taken into account in any tax planning undertaken in the next few months. Please do not hesitate to contact our office to discuss these bonuses and how they apply in your situation. In addition, if you have not yet dropped your 2008 tax work in to our office please do so at your earliest convenience.

investment allowances with Toni Jackson As you may be aware, the the asset must be installed & ready for use by The investment allowance is claimed in the



Government has announced as part of its "economic stimulus package". the introduction of a temporary investment allowance for Australian businesses. The investment allowance has now been expanded from the Government's initial announcement on 12 December 2008, to provide

an additional 30% tax deduction for the cost of purchasing new depreciating assets & new expenditure on existing assets, which are used in Australia.

The allowance will apply as follows:

Additional 30% tax deduction (in addition to the normal tax depreciation deductions) for the cost of purchasing new depreciating assets & on new expenditure to enhance existing depreciating assets

the cost of the asset or the new expenditure is at least \$10,000 (\$1,000 for small businesses with a turnover of \$2 million or less)

the asset must be acquired or started to be held under a contract entered into between 13 December 2008 and 30 June 2009

30 June 2010 and must be used in carrying on a business where the asset is acquired or started to be held under a contract entered into between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2009, an additional 10% tax deduction is available, provided the asset is installed and ready for use by 31 December 2010

The investment allowance relates to tangible depreciating assets only, and includes expenditure on motor vehicles used in carrying on a business.

The allowance does not include:

the purchase of trading stock or capital improvements for which deductions are available under the structural improvement capital allowance provisions

intangible depreciating assets such as in-house patents, copyrights, mining, prospecting and quarrying rights

water facilities, horticultural plants, landcare operations or connecting utilities which are subject to specific deductions outside the general depreciation provisions.

income tax return of the taxpayer for the year in which the first depreciation deduction is claimed for the asset. The allowance can only be claimed when the asset is first used or is installed ready for use, therefore simply incurring the expenditure will not qualify for the allowance.

Business owners should consider any capital spending for future years that can be established under a contract (or start to be constructed) prior to 30 June 2009 for the 30% concession, or 31 December 2009 for the 10% concession. These assets, however, will need to be used or installed ready for use by 30 June 2010 or 31 December 2010 respectively.

The investment allowance provides a significant one-off tax benefit. Should you wish to discuss your existing capital asset planning or how your business could benefit from these measures, please contact our office.

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the newsletter of power tynan

MY SAY Philip Saal



How times change! When I first jokes regarding stockbrokers becoming pizza started with Power Tynan in early 1996, we were purely an accounting firm. Our focus was on compliance, business strategy and all that is to do with tax. As the business grew we started to branch

out into financial planning, and I subsequently became the manager of the financial planning team.

In the early days, financial planning was seen as the 'glamorous' side of the business. It was not so difficult to convince young accountants to come across to the more exciting world of shares, managed funds and superannuation. At least, that is how we sold it to them! Many a time we would make fun of our accounting colleagues, joking that they could always find work as undertakers. Then the merger of Power Tynan with ABN AMRO Morgans Toowoomba occurred in November 2007. Suddenly, the numbers on 'our side of the fence' grew and, of course, the jokes continued.

Bring on 2008 and all that it had to offer. Yes, I am referring to the collapse of the financial markets and the credit crisis. How the pendulum in the office swings. Suddenly the accountants are fighting back, cracking

delivery boys, and financial planners actually contemplating a return to the 'dark side' (accounting). It is no longer quite so easy to convince the young accountants to come over to the investment world.

In these tough economic times, we believe that the key to our business is to remain diversified. In other words, offer a suite of services that nobody else offers, and deliver those services in a professional manner. This guiding principle should be the same in any business - identify key areas of distinction and specialisation so that you can differentiate yourself from your opposition. We pride ourselves on being the premier firm to satisfy all of our clients' accounting, leasing and finance, stockbroking and financial planning needs - all under one roof.

As for our business, the jokes will continue and the internal friendly rivalry still exists. Yet we are all striving to deliver a consistent standard of professionalism across the entire range of our services. Best of all, our clients can continue to expect the same focus. the same quality of service and the same dedicated team that they have come to know and trust. Some things don't change.

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Coming to a mailbox near you -**Seminar Invitations**

Look out for your invitation in the mail to our one day intensive conference to be held on 15 May 2009. This conference is made up of a number of concurrent sessions representing a diversity of topics presented by speakers from all sectors of our business.

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Forget Crisis, Look Ahead for the Recovery

The past 12 months can be will. classified only as a stock market disaster and have been extraordinary to say the least. The ASX200 fell 44% over the year and at one point was 53%

down from its all-time high of 6851 points hit in November 2007.

What went wrong?

The emergence of the previously unheard of 'sub-prime crisis' in the USA caused some of the world's largest financial institutions to fail and brought the global financial system to a complete standstill. All new lending, consumer and business, evaporated overnight and interest charged on borrowings skyrocketed. Investors switched out of equities, commodities and the Australian dollar and into safe havens such as the US dollar and gold. The flow-on effects to the real economy were substantial - global growth has stalled, the commodity boom has suffered a huge setback and unemployment is rising steadily.

What might happen in 2009?

One of the biggest problems investors in general have is that we tend to project the present. This is causing the media and market commentators to only see the negatives and project the year ahead similar to what we have just been through. However, the market rarely behaves that way. History repeatedly tells us that when everyone in the world is telling you things will not get better, it is likely that they

By no means are we out of the woods yet as employment ads are forecasting a steep rise in unemployment in the first six months of the year, slowing commodity demand is reducing prices and output and consumers are tightening their belts. However as the year progresses we need to look past this and begin to focus on the positives that are occurring. Interest rates are at their lowest level in years: fuel prices have dropped: governments all around the world are implementing stimulus packages; the US Federal Reserve is determined to unfreeze the credit markets (with early signs of this occurring already); and at some point the recession will end.

The Australian stock market, although volatile, is extremely cheap when compared to historic averages and is offering some of the highest yields available. As the economy goes through its natural cycle the market volatility will continue but at some point in time it will begin to look through the doom and gloom and start to price in a recovery. Once this does occur history has shown that strong gains can be achievable. What should you do?

This is perhaps the hardest question investors are facing right now. To answer this we have put together some rational tips to help you navigate the current market conditions.

Most importantly for current investorsdon't panic - The worst thing you can do is

superannuation with Kymberlee Naumann from ABN AMRO Morgans authorised representative (267881)



SMSFs versus family trusts for the next generation

Family trusts have long been an important way for Australians to pool their assets, as to allow their families to be supported over successive generations. However, it has been argued

that SMSFs are just as valuable a vehicle for building, protecting and passing on family wealth, and in some cases may be better than family trusts.

Interms of tax effectiveness, superannuation cannot be bettered. While the capital within a family trust is not taxable, that is dependent on the requirement that all its profits are distributed, and these are taxable in the hands of each beneficiary at their marginal tax rate. For a minor, that means being taxed at the penalty rate of 66% for income over \$416, and 45% on unexpected income over \$1307.

SMSFs can retain capital indefinitely within the trust, with long-term capital gains taxed at 10% and income taxed at 15%. In essence you can warehouse the money within the low tax environment of the super fund until you die. When an SMSF trustee dies, funds are paid out to the beneficiary spouse over the age of 60 in the form of a tax free lump sum or pension. Funds paid to a member under the age of 60 are taxed at the recipient's marginal tax rate with a possible 15% tax offset.

The obstacle, however, is when taxable funds are paid out directly from an SMSF to a non-dependent child. These funds will be taxed at 16.5%, which can represent a sizeable chunk of the estate. Given this though, the aim is therefore to minimise the taxable component left in a SMSF by

panic. Switching all your growth assets to cash is not the answer if you are investing for the long term. In other words, if you move completely out of the share market you won't be there for the recovery.

Markets always recover - Despite short-term volatility, markets always recover. History has proven this time and again. Stick with your strategy and recognise the short term wobbles in the market.

Stick to quality assets - Quality assets have the best chance of recovery. Use this opportunity to get rid of the "dead wood" in your portfolio.

Begin taking part positions- No one can predict when the market will bottom therefore by investing small amounts regularly you will average your entry price into the market.

Diversification reduces risk - Proper diversification, or spreading your exposure across all asset classes, can reduce risk.

The information in this article is of a general nature only and does not represent specific investment advice. It was prepared by David Andreatta, Private Client Adviser, ABN AMRO Morgans Limited (ABN 49 010 669 726 AFSL 235410 A Participant of ASX Group). If you would like a review of your current portfolio or have any other investment related gueries please feel free to make an appointment by contacting David on Ph 07 4639 1277 or

email dandreatta@abnamromrgans.com. a11.

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SMSF or via recontributions.

the time the trustee dies. This can be done through creating multi-accounts within the

Multi-accounts allow a number of accounts to be set up within the fund where different accounts have different tax components. This becomes attractive for estate planning purposes where the pension account made up of the taxable component can be used up at a faster rate than an account comprising exempt tax-free components. The recontribution strategy allows you to withdraw taxable funds from a SMSF tax free (if you are over 60) and then recontribute them, up to the contribution limit, as a tax-free component.

Each of these strategies requires careful planning but they allow you to organise your affairs beforehand so that if you

happen to die, the SMSF has been put in the best situation, making it flexible for the trustee to pay out the money to the survivors to incur the least possible tax.

For those who wish to pass assets down to beneficiaries beyond the immediate generations, there are mixed opinions about whether a family trust or an SMSF is superior. Assets can be retained within a family trust indefinitely (or at least up to 85 years). Theoretically this could encompass three or four generations.

Another advantage of family trusts is that trustees have discretion as to whom funds will be distributed. This gives the trustees power to withhold funds from family members if necessary - to bypass a generation for instance, if a trustee prefers to pass on funds directly to grandchildren for some reason.

Once the trustee of an SMSF and their spouse die, the death benefit must be paid out to beneficiaries, even if the beneficiaries

tax bonuses with Megan Lipp Tax Bonuses Coming Soon

No doubt you are well aware of the recent Government Announcement of five key one-off payments for low and middle income households and individuals. These targeted cash bonuses, which are aimed at stimulating consumption

quickly, are a key element of the Government's \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan to support up to 90 000 Australian jobs. However, before you rush out the door to purchase that new plasma or book that dream getaway, be sure to read carefully the eligibility criteria detailed for each bonus below:

Tax Bonus for Working Australians

This is a \$900.00 Tax bonus for working Australians earning \$80 000 or less. This will be paid as a lump sum from April 2009. Tax payers will not need to apply for the payment, the Australian Taxation Office will automatically make the payment (via EFT or a cheque) after determining eligibility.

The legislation, which has now been finalized. incorporates a \$900.00 bonus for tax pavers with a taxable income of up to and including \$80 000.00. A \$600.00 bonus will be paid to taxpayers with taxable income between \$80 000.00 and \$90 000.00 and a \$250.00 bonus will be paid to tax payers with a taxable income exceeding \$90 000.00 but no greater than \$100 000.00.

However, you need to have lodged your 2007-2008 income tax return by 30 June 2009 to obtain the bonus and also must have had a liability to pay tax (even if you got a refund) in that same year. Please note the bonus cannot be used to offset a tax payer's tax liability.

Families

Single Income Family Bonus

This bonus will be a one-off payment of \$900.00 per family to every family entitled

to Family Tax Benefit Part B on 3 February 2009, irrespective of the number of children. Family Tax Benefit part B is limited to families (single partner or couple) where the primary earner has an adjusted taxable income of \$150 000.00 or less per year. The one-off payment will be made in the fortnight commencing 11 March 2009 for families who receive their Family Assistance as fortnightly instalments. For families who receive their Family Assistance as a lump sum at the end of the financial year, the one-off payment will be made with the rest of the Family Tax Benefit Part B payment.

Back to School Bonus

generations.

Families with children of school age who are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A as at 3 February 2009 (or who are subsequently determined to be eligible to receive Family Tax Benefit Part A on 3 February 2009) will receive the Back to School bonus for each eligible school aged child (aged four to eighteen on 3 February 2009). The Back to School bonus is a one-off lump sum payment of \$950.00 per eligible child. For those eligible beneficiaries receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A as a fortnightly payment, Centrelink will pay the \$950.00 bonus from the fortnight commencing 11 March 2009. A small number of eligible families receive Family Tax Benefit Part A as a lump sum. For these families, the Back to School bonus will be paid in 2009-2010 or 2010-2011, after their 2008-2009 income tax returns have been processed by the Australian Taxation Office.

As an example, consider a husband and wife couple David and Emily. David earns \$40 000.00 a year and his wife Emily earns \$30 000.00 a year. They have two children. Jack (aged 5) and Sarah (aged 7). They are entitled to Family Tax Benefit A for 2009. The total amount they will receive is \$3 700, which is

are members of the fund. Again, however, the flexibility of an SMSF means assets can be returned to the fund if required, as long as amounts do not exceed contribution limits. SMSFs with members in both pension and accumulation phase can show their value when they consist largely of one main asset such as business real property. Let's use the example of a couple whose main SMSF asset is the family farm. With no other, more liquid assets from which to drawn an income when they retire, the couple would have to sell the farm to raise cash. However, if their children were members of the fund. paying in their contributions to the fund, the fund now has a source of cash which could be paid out to the parents as pension. This then allows the farm to be kept in the family and passed down through the

The final comparative feature between SMSFs and family trusts is perhaps asset protection. The asset protection qualities of family trusts have been shaken up recently with the Richstar Enterprises case. This situation, by equating a beneficiary's interest in a discretionary trust to a form of property, demonstrated that family trusts could not hide assets from business creditors. The case demonstrated that if protection from litigators and creditors is paramount, an SMSF is certainly stronger in terms of asset protection than a family trust.

For those looking to provide for family in case of accident, illness or death, the best means is by use of an SMSE After age 55, the benefit of a family trust pales into insignificance and an SMSF becomes a far better tax vehicle. By age 60, the preference would be to set up everything in a SMSF.

Overall though, whether a family trust is more suitable than an SMSF comes down to the individual family's scenario. There are certainly advantages in both. It is really about tailoring it to particular circumstances and goals. If you have any concerns regarding the structuring of your assets, do not hesitate to discuss this issue with your accountant or adviser.

made up of 2 x \$900.00 working Australians bonus and 2 x \$950.00 Back to School bonus for school aged children where families are eligible for Family Tax A.

Families who elect to receive Family Tax Benefit Part A as a lump sum may decide to alter their payment arrangements at anytime by notifying Centrelink. Under existing rules, families have a window of two years to claim their Family Tax Benefit Part A lump sum. The Back to School bonus is in addition to assistance for educational expenses that is available through the Education Tax Refund. Under the Education Tax Refund, eligible families entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A will be able to claim:

A 50% refundable tax offset every year for up to \$750.00 of eligible expenses for each child undertaking primary school (that is a refund of up to \$375.00 per child per year)

A 50% refundable tax offset every year for up to \$1 500.00 of eligible expenses for each child undertaking secondary school (that is a refund of up to \$750.00 per child per year).

Training & Learning Bonus

The Government is providing a one-off bonus to eligible student social security recipients and will cover students undertaking approved courses that generally include secondary education courses, undergraduate courses, associate diplomas and some other diplomas, TAFE courses and some postgraduate courses.

The Training and Learning Bonus consists of two categories:

Category 1

This is a one-off \$950.00 bonus (for 2009 only) for recipients as at 3 February 2009 of youth allowance (students and apprentices), Austudy, ABSTUDY and other student & related payments (Sickness Allowance & Special Benefit (under age pension age)) and to families entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) for each

leasing & finance with Dan Cuthbert



Identity Theft & How to Protect Yourself

of a pre-existing identity. It may occur when a criminal steals or comes into possession of your personal information, such as vour name, credit card details,

address, date of birth, bank account, debit card details. driver's licence etc and assumes your identity to commit fraud. Criminals commit this crime by applying for credit, running up bills and not paying creditors - all under another person's name. Banks use a combination of safeguards to protect vour information.

RECOGNISING IDENTITY THEFT

The signs can vary but some typical indicators that your identity is being used illegally are.

A bank informs you that an application for credit was received with your name and address, which you did not apply for;

Telephone calls or letters informing you that you have been denied credit for which you did not apply;

You receive bank, mobile phone or credit card statements or other bills in your name. for which you did not apply;

You notice that you no longer receive your bank or credit card statement or you notice that not all your mail is being delivered.

TIPS TO AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

If the following precautions are taken then consumers can reduce the likelihood of becoming the victim of this type of criminal activity:

Each time you receive account statements, carefully check to ensure that they do not include any transactions that have not been initiated by you. Contact your financial institution immediately regarding any suspicious transactions.

Never click on a link or attachment in an email which purportedly sends you to a bank's website. Only access your bank's Internet banking logon page by typing the address into your browser.

If you intend destroying receipts and other personal information materials which link your name to specific account number information, ensure they are completely destroyed, so they cannot be retrieved.

Secure your mail by making sure your letterbox is locked and post mail at secure, official post boxes. Quickly remove mail from your letterbox after it is delivered. When you change your address, contact the financial institution and redirect your mail to the new location. If the volume of mail declines, check with the Post Office to see if anyone has filed a change of address form in your name.

Identity theft involves the theft If vourceditcardorotheraccountstatements are more than two weeks late you should: a) Contact the financial institution and other businesses that send you accounts and confirm when and to where the statements were posted.

> b) Contact your post office and check that someone has not redirected your mail to another address. This emphasises the importance of being aware of your account statement cycles. Protect your account information and never write down your Personal Identification Number (PIN), particularly not on your credit or debit card. To better protect your identity your PIN should be committed to memory. You must never tell your PIN or a password to anyone, including a family member or friend. Banks will never ask you for your PIN or password. When choosing a PIN do not use obvious passwords such

as telephone numbers, birthdates or vour mother's maiden name. Instead use passwords and PINs that will be difficult for someone else to figure out. At an ATM or EFTPOS machine, cover your hand when entering the PIN to ensure that people standing nearby cannot see the numbers vou have entered.

Do not carry identification documents such as birth certificate. Medicare card etc. unless you need them on that day. Never carry your PIN in your wallet with an ATM card.

In a safe place, secure your personal information and keep a record of your account information (account number, type of account, expiry date, credit limits) and customer service contact numbers. Also keep a record of your identification documents such as passport, birth certificate, driver's licence and so on. If your wallet or purse is lost or stolen, you are then able to provide that information to the account issuers in a timely manner. Don't leave documents such as registration papers, driver's licences, utility bills or traffic fines in the car glove box.

Do not provide account-related information, over the telephone or on the Internet, unless you know who you are dealing with or you initiated the call. Always ask why your information is needed and how it will be used. Remember you can say no and seek further advice before disclosing any information.

Do not respond to unsolicited emails posing as official messages from your bank.

When making payments by credit card or debit card, such as in restaurants or service stations, maintain a full view of the card at all times during the processing of the transaction.

forms carefully so that they cannot be easily altered. Always 'cross' cheques, marking them 'not negotiable' and make sure the payee is correctly identified. When filling in forms, place a line through unused spaces.

I HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you believe that your personal information has been stolen, then you must act immediately. Once contacted, banks quickly take action – closing accounts where appropriate and commencing a fraud investigation. If the investigation proves that the customer was an innocent victim of fraud and did not contribute to the loss, banks will refund the loss.

Keep a record of all conversations and correspondence detailed in the following steps:

Action 1: Immediately contact your financial institution/s and card issuer/s so that access to your account/s can be protected. This may involve:

Stopping payment of lost or stolen cheques:

Changing PINs and/or passwords.

Ensure that you advise the financial institutions and card issuers of all accounts that are involved.

Action 2: Notify the police of the incident.

Action 3: Contact Veda Advantage on telephone (02) 9464 6000 or online at www.mycreditfile.com.au to obtain a copy of your credit history report. Upon receipt of the Veda report:

Review the report to ensure that fraudulent activity has not occurred using your identity details.

If you find fraudulent applications or overdue account listings on your report, you will need to contact the companies that have listed them so that they can investigate the matter and have the fraudulent entries removed from your credit history.

Request a further report in a few months' time to ensure that no further fraudulent activity has occurred. If there have been further entries, then carry out the same actions as detailed previously.

Veda Advantage and other companies provide ongoing credit monitoring services for a fee.

Action 4: Check with the Post Office to ensure that no one has requested an unauthorised change of address for your mail delivery.

Action 5: As mentioned above, fully document (time, date, contact person and telephone number, and advice received) Make sure that you fill out cheques and the timing and nature of conversations in reporting the incidents to the banks in Australia must identify new various agencies, including the police. customers with the '100 point' check.

100 POINT CHECK

Checking identity when opening bank accounts is an important way of fighting money laundering and other criminal activities and this is why the law (Financial Transaction Reports Act) says that

So, if you're opening an account for the first time, you'll need to show the bank some identity documents that prove who vou are. These documents might include a birth certificate, driver's licence, passport, pensioner concession card, or even an ATM

staff spotlight - scholarship recipient

It is always exciting to have new staff members start with us and it is with great pleasure that we introduce our latest recruit Peter Rowe.

Peter was one of two very worthy recipients of the 2009 Power Tynan Scholarship. He hails from Warwick and is just about to embark on his Bachelor of Commerce degree at the USQ.

The Power Tynan Scholarship Program offers two school-leavers the opportunity to study accountancy (part-time) at any University while working with us full-time (in Toowoomba). We pay the individual's HECS fees for all successfully completed subjects. The obvious advantage to the scholarship winner is that they have their course fees paid and are in position where they can apply their knowledge practically and receive valuable on-the-job mentoring and training. This is the second year we have conducted the program and we will soon be searching for the applicants for the 2010 program. Should you know of any suitable candidates, please don't hesitate to suggest that they call our office to request an application pack.



In January Power Tynan and ABN AMRO Morgans hosted, on an excursion from the University of Southern Queensland (USO). 12 students who were participating in the 'Getting Started' Accounting program. This program was offered by the USO free of tuition costs, and gave 12 top school accounting students within the local region the opportunity to study USQ's first year core Accounting course over the Summer break. Students who successfully complete this course are awarded entry to USQ's Bachelor of Commerce program and academic credit for their result in the Accounting course.

On their visit the students were exposed to the different career options available to them at Power Tynan and ABN AMRO Morgans in the accounting and financial services fields. Paul Hilton, the CEO of Wealth Experience Ptv Ltd (the company that owns Power Tynan), also spoke to them about the practical and functional nature of business decisions from the perspective of financial accounting; managerial costing and budgetary policies.



Date Claimer

15 May 2009 - Intensive one day seminar offered by Wealth Experience, made up of twelve sessions covering a broad range of topics to interest individuals, retirees, investors and businesses

card for an account you hold with another bank. Each form of identification has a 'points' value, ranging from 25 to 100 points. Your identification documents need to add up to 100 points. To find out which documents you can use, and to make sure you've got the right documents on the day. talk to your bank and find out what you'll need.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND