

Credit unions and mutual building societies

Growing from strength to strength



Strict regulation protects your deposits.

- Credit unions and building societies meet the same strict, legally enforceable standards as banks, under the Banking Act and strict oversight by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA).
- The Australian Government has also recently guaranteed all deposits with credit unions, building societies and banks. This means that all Australian deposits have the full backing of the Government.
- After 28 November, a fee will be payable by banks, building societies and credit unions for guarantees on deposits of more than \$1 million.
- APRA's strict rules on safety and capital continue to apply to all banks, building societies and credit unions to the same high standards.

Healthy, strong balance sheets.

- All credit unions and building societies (and banks) are Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (ADIs), regulated under the Banking Act.
- Credit unions and mutual building societies have combined assets of over \$65 billion. More than 4.5 million Australians are members, demonstrating the scale and strength of credit unions and mutual ADIs.
- Credit unions and building societies are well capitalised with robust capital adequacy ratios of 16.5% and 14.5% respectively (compared to around 10.6% for banks) and have high levels of liquidity.
- Credit unions and building societies are prudent and responsible lenders. We have no exposure to the toxic sub-prime loans in the US. Credit unions and mutual building societies have the lowest levels of arrears in the Australian lending market.
- As mutuals, we are not under pressure to take risks to maximise record returns for shareholders. We put your interests first.

Conservatively managed and operated.

- Credit unions and mutual building societies do not engage in sub prime loans and do not invest in complex securities based on sub prime loans.
- Mortgages at credit unions and building societies continued to grow at a double-digit pace in the year to June 2008, despite the financial turmoil that has forced other lenders to scale back or cease lending.
- Credit unions and mutual building societies fund more than 80% of their lending from retail deposits, not the volatile wholesale market.
- Credit unions and mutual building societies meet the same high standards as the biggest banks, under Australia's regulatory system.

A trusted haven for Australian savings.

- Household deposits at credit unions and building societies exceed \$50 billion and are growing at close to 10% annually. The household deposit base of Australia's mutual ADIs is second only to the CBA.
- As financial market turbulence continues, consumers are looking for a safe haven for their savings. As strongly regulated mutuals, credit unions and mutual building societies are safe and competitive.
- Credit unions and mutual building societies offer very competitive savings, term deposit and online savings products.