

MEDIA RELEASE

Money Mentor heads to Huon Valley to empower the next generation with financial confidence - 14th September 2026 | Tasmania

Money Mentor is taking its practical approach to financial education to the Huon Valley in Tasmania from September 14th, with **Aruna Venkatachalam, Head of Impact Education at Local Impact** to lead Money Mentor with Year 10–12 students at [Huonville High School](#).

The Money Mentor Program is designed to give young people a strong foundation for financial empowerment, providing tailored, in-depth and practical education to help students build strong knowledge, skills and confidence, as they become independent and enter the worlds of work and post-school life.

“Financial education is most powerful when people - including youth - see how it connects to their lives now and to the choices they will make in the future,” said Aruna Venkatachalam. **“It also works best when we take an all-of-community approach - with schools, educators, community leaders and organisations working with us, to lead the way and impart this knowledge themselves in future.”**

The program is particularly focused on the transition from school to employment, equipping students with practical financial knowledge they can apply to everyday life, work and future decision-making.

Together, **Huon Valley Financial Services Limited**, which operates the four Bendigo Community Bank branches in the Huon Valley, and Aruna Venkatachalam recognised the need for building a sustainable model for financial education across the community. Local Impact will lead **Train the Trainer sessions with local Community Bank staff**. They will co-deliver the program with the Money Mentor core facilitator team to students, then continue delivering it themselves locally in future.

“The students themselves have identified financial literacy as one of their key learning priorities, so the delivery of this Money Mentor program is particularly relevant and timely,” said David Brereton, Chair, Huon Valley Financial Services Limited.

TAS Department of Education representatives are keen to see our program in action, and explore the possibilities of how a model like this is relevant for **students’ financial empowerment across TAS**.

“Our approach is hands-on, engaging and designed to meet students where they are. We want young people to leave the program feeling more confident about the idea that, ‘money is power and choice’. This prepares them better for their transitions into work and adult life. Through a Train the Trainer model, local people in Huon Valley will strengthen that, together,” said Aruna Venkatachalam.

Media Contact details for interviews [before arrival or while in Tasmania]

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Suggested topics for discussion;

- An all-community approach to financial literacy: Train the Trainer, Community Bank, educators
- Financial empowerment, which helps youth with the important transition from school to employment
- Equipping everyone with practical knowledge they can apply to life, work and future decision-making

For more information on our program <https://moneymentor.org.au/>

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