

## MEDIA RELEASE

21 September 2020



### FINANCIAL HARDSHIP SUPPORT SERVICES

The State Emergency Relief Committee (SERC) has developed a range of promotional resources for the purpose of generating community awareness of how to access financial counselling and emergency relief.

Below are web links to online resources which may be of assistance:

**WACconnect** <https://wacconnect.org.au/>

WACconnect is a WA online directory to help you and your family find extra help to get you through these challenging times. Search WACconnect for local food relief, emergency accommodation, assistance with overdue bills and referrals to other services and support. You can purchase WACconnect promotional cards for your community or service by contacting [leela@wacoss.org.au](mailto:leela@wacoss.org.au)

**Emergency Relief and Food Access Service**

The free-call Emergency Relief and Food Access Service has been set up to support community members to identify and apply for emergency relief. Phone 1800 979 777 from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

**National Debt Hotline** <https://ndh.org.au/>

Are a not-for-profit service that helps people in Australia tackle their debt problems. They offer free, independent and confidential financial information and support provided by financial counsellors. They can also help you find other supports in your community.

**Financial Counsellors Association WA**

You can search your nearest financial counsellor by visiting Financial Counsellors Association WA at and typing your post code. <https://financialcounsellors.org/find-a-financial-counsellor/>

There are additional financial resources available in the COVID-19 section of the WACOSS webpage: <https://wacoss.org.au/>

**For more information, email WACOSS Coordinator Community Relief & Resilience Leela James at [leela@wacoss.org.au](mailto:leela@wacoss.org.au)**