



The SMART\$ programme is designed to provoke thinking and conversation around everyday financial decisions and opportunities impacting young people. Designed specifically for New Zealand rangatahi, SMART\$ is made up of a live theatre-in-education performance in schools and an interactive website.

Concepts covered include saving, deferred payment schemes, credit cards and KiwiSaver.

In the SMART\$ theatre-in-education performance, the audience follows three characters as they reflect on financial decisions they made as young people and the subsequent impact. Relatable young actors explore the learning points with students in workshop discussions after the performance.

SMART\$ Online can be used by schools as a complementary follow-up or as a stand alone resource. Thanks to PMG Charitable Trust the website is free for anyone to use. It contains entertaining videos and quizzes around the same key topics.

SMART\$ aligns with the New Zealand Curriculum and aims to increase young people's life skills and knowledge, enabling them to become confident managers of money and contribute to their communities.

## Programme reach - theatre-in-education



## FEEDBACK

### Teachers reported:

**93%** felt it was important for students to learn more about financial literacy.

**79%** felt that the SMART\$ performance was relevant to students.

**93%** would recommend SMART\$.

### Teachers liked:

"The relevant information and the way it was presented. It wasn't 'cheezy'. It was effective."

"The performers managed to fit money concepts into a play and it was pitched at the right level."

## 77% of students felt SMART\$ was a good way to learn about everyday money choices.

46% of students discussed the topics covered in SMART\$ with whānau and friends

49% of students have decided to save regularly since the SMART\$ performance

### Students said:

"It was amazingly informative and a real eye opener about financial literacy for me."

"Being informative and funny made it relatable and easy to listen to."

"I learned you can start saving at whatever age, and how interest gains interest."

## Programme reach - smartsonline.org.nz

1691  
modules  
completed



## Why financial literacy education is important in New Zealand

New Zealand's financial environment is challenging for young people growing up today. Financial education is patchy in schools despite widespread recognition of its importance.

The poverty trap and intergenerational impact of poor financial skills is real. Without skills and knowledge to apply to real life situations involving financial decisions, strategies to lift household income will have limited impact.

The Commission For Financial Capability (CFFC) contracted the New Zealand Council for Educational Research to assess financial capability in secondary schools. **Teachers believe that students' money management skills are low. Importantly though, 82% of secondary students want to learn more about how to manage their money, and see the value of obtaining advice on money issues.**

