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**Titirangi beneficiary got MoneyMinded and returned to the workforce**

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Raising boys isn't cheap - especially on a benefit!

Titirangi mother Mereanna Smith learnt this lesson every day while raising her two sons Richard, 18, and Rodney, 15.

The 48-year-old who struggled to make ends meet on the benefit turned a financial corner after completing ANZ's MoneyMinded programme. The programme is run through the Solomon Group\* to get solo parents back into work.

"The biggest thing I learnt was how to budget - how to use my money in better ways. I really wanted to do it for the budgeting advice because sometimes I could be quite frivolous and spend it on rubbish.

"I needed to be made aware of what my money could do for me."

Before completing the course Mereanna said she was always thinking and worrying about money.

"All my money was spent on my kids."

After paying obligatory bills like power, she was left with a meagre amount to spend at the supermarket to fill the bellies of her growing boys.

"When I look back to how things were, I know I've made things better for me and my family.

"Before, we were just surviving but now things are so much better."

\*ANZ partners with the Solomon Group based in Manurewa who deliver the MoneyMinded programme. Solomon Group is a private training organisation that specialise in providing literacy training programmes for beneficiaries, youth and migrants.