



MINISTER OF FINANCE
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

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PRESS RELEASE

2016/17 BUDGET CITIZENS GUIDE

The Finance Minister is releasing the 2016/17 Budget Citizens Guide, which is intended to allow the public to easily understand the key components of the Budget. This will be available for interested readers in both English and Cook Islands Maori at the locations listed below around Rarotonga, and on the MFEM [website](#).

The release of this guide is a further step toward increasing the amount of information publicly available regarding the priorities of government, and where taxpayer funds are spent for the benefit of the Cook Islands people.

The 2016/17 Budget is an investment Budget that focuses on directly improving the lives of everyday Cook Islanders. After the very successful 2015/16 fiscal year with large revenue growth due to increased tourist numbers, as well as significant savings in the Air New Zealand Underwrite, Government has identified a range of new initiatives for funding. These initiatives include support for the Family Law Bill, funding for education in the Pa Enua, Cyclone Centres and marine equipment for Island Governments, amongst many other things.

The guide also highlights the healthy operating balances forecast over the forward estimates, as well as the historically high levels of investment currently undertaken by the Government.

Locations of 2016/17 Budget Citizen's Guide:

- Super Brown, Tupapa;
- Tex Mart, Matavera;
- Kia Orana Store, Ngatangia;
- TEM Store, Muri;
- Wigmore's Super Store, Titikaveka;
- Tex Mart, Betela;
- The Corner Store, Nikao;
- Oasis Energy, Nikao; and
- MFEM Treasury Office, Avarua.

Subject to interest, educational sessions on how to read the budget can be arranged between 29th August and 23rd September 2016.

To confirm your interest, please contact Edwina Matenga on telephone 29-511 ext. 8312 or edwina.matenga@cookislands.gov.ck.

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22 August 2016