

# Tuned in to finance



**FAMILY BONDING:** Wendy Freimayer with her children Emma and Sam at their piano, the financially-savvy family's greatest extravagance. Picture SAM WUNDKE

WENDY Freimayer has investment advice on tap. The executive assistant at private investment and advisory firm Ashington is also married to a financial planner.

**What was your first investment and how did it go?**

My first investment with my husband was our family home in Rose Park that we bought in 1995. It's been a great investment. We bought the home when the market was in a low cycle and since then we've had a gain of over 200 per cent over the last 13 years. We've been very fortunate.

**What is your favourite type of investment?**

I tend to favour diversified investments in property, Australian shares and managed funds. Diversified investing allows you to spread risks and removes some degree of fluctuation in returns.

**What is the best investment advice you have received and who was it from?**

The best advice I've ever received was from my father. He has always reminded me to keep something aside for a rainy day.

**How do you approach investment risk?**

I have always gone with my gut feeling. You will always have influences around you, but I think you have to feel right within yourself, particularly when assessing investment risk.

**What has been your best-performing investment?**

My husband and I purchased a commercial office property at Myrtle Bank about four years ago and it's going very well.

**And the worst?**

The share market downturn in 2001 affected our share portfolio and superannuation a little. The economic outlook isn't great news either, but you need to maintain a long-term perspective with any investment.

**Where do you get your information about investing?**

Investment advice often comes from my husband, who is a financial planner, and family and friends. Also, working at Ashington allows me to



## MY INVESTMENTS

receive some great investment advice from our managing director, Kent Aughey.

**How would you invest \$25,000 if you were given it tomorrow?**

That is easy! I would invest \$5000 on a family holiday and the remaining \$20,000 would be invested in to our children's education fund.

**How do you feel about managed funds?**

I feel extremely comfortable with managed funds.

**How do you feel about investing overseas?**

Given the global economic outlook, I wouldn't invest overseas right now. I would consider investing in managed funds with some overseas exposure, but it would have to be at the right time.

**Do you make extra repayments off your mortgage?**

We try to as often as we can.

**How do you treat your credit card?**

I don't have a credit card. I have a debit card instead. Debit cards have a limit and are quite restrictive, so there is little chance of getting into financial trouble.

**How do you feel about life and disability insurance?**

I think they're both essential.

**Do you have a personal finance budget and do you stick to it?**

Yes I do and I definitely stick to it, especially with the debit card.

**What's the most extravagant purchase you have made?**

It would have to be our piano at our home. It's a Yamaha upright piano that I bought five years ago. My children and I love to sit and play on it together for hours. It was a very worthwhile purchase as it's great for family bonding.