



**ADF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CONSUMER CENTRE**

# Post Deployment Summary Checklist

If you've returned home from a deployment recently this checklist should help you consolidate your financial position.

## Budgeting

- Exercise discipline with your post-deployment finances by using the [ADF Online Budget Planner](#)
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## Taxation

- Always tell the Taxation Office the whole truth about your income, have proof of any tax deductions and only deal with a qualified accountant or registered tax agent.
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## Investing in Shares

- The higher the reward, the higher the risk. Remember to buy shares for the long term, purchase quality shares and diversify your portfolio. Consider investing in a managed fund with a financial institution.
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## Investing in Real Estate

- Buy real estate for its investment potential and treat any tax breaks as a bonus. Save for a healthy deposit to avoid lenders' mortgage insurance. Remember the value of the property may drop. Do your homework on development proposals and strata records. Avoid high pressure sales pitches. Beware of guaranteed rent deals. Understand the risks associated with negative gearing. Consider how the purchase might affect your Defence housing entitlements. Consider the [Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme](#).
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## Borrowing Money

- Before borrowing money, first consider paying off other debts such as pay day loans, personal loans, cash advances and credit cards. Consider not having a credit card, or at least find a credit card with the lowest fees and interest rates at [www.ratecity.com.au](http://www.ratecity.com.au). Home loan types include variable rate, fixed rate and hybrid and interest only. Margin loans can be a high return, but high risk, strategy. Try not to borrow money to buy a car, but if you must, find the best car loan at [www.ratecity.com.au](http://www.ratecity.com.au). Have a cash buffer for bad times.
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## Financial Advisers

- Watch the [Financial Advisers – The Facts and the Fiction](#) film (or use the [Getting Advice](#) e-Learning module) and consider whether you should see a financial adviser.
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## Protecting Your Assets

- Watch the [Protecting Your Assets – the Legal Issues](#) film and consider whether you should see a lawyer about updating your wills or powers of attorney.