



SWATTING UP ON ECONOMICS

Sydney, 4 September 2003: The Commonwealth Bank Chief Economist, Michael Blythe is ready to receive on-line questions from senior students swatting for their economics exams who want the latest news about factors affecting our economy.

Michael is responsible for monitoring, analysing and forecasting trends in the Australian economy and financial markets for the Commonwealth Bank.

Michael is a special guest on the DollarsandSense website Forum for the month of September. The Forum is designed to complement the senior exam study period before the end-of-year exams. The online Forum provides a free resource to high schools across Australia and has already received a bundle of questions from the Northern Territory.

Michael was one of the website's most popular Forum guests last year. He answered questions about the impact on the economy of the Bali bombing and terrorism, as well as questions on the drought, trade, the Australian dollar, housing prices, interest rates and inflation and the reserve bank.

This year Michael expects questions about the latest issues impacting the economy such as, 'Is the global economy recovering after the slowdown of the last few years?', and 'Are we seeing a housing price bubble?' Those interested in finding out more are invited to log on to www.dollarsandsense.com.au and ask Michael a question before Friday 26 September. Answers will be published on the website.

DollarsandSense is a website developed by the Commonwealth Bank to help young people (aged between 14 and 21) develop their money management skills. The website offers concise, objective, and practical information about a range of money matters, as well as interactive budgeting tools. The website is mapped to the business and mathematics curricula across Australia.

Upcoming Forum Guests:

October – CEO on the Line - David Murray, Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Bank puts himself on the line to answers questions from young people about what it's like to be CEO, his management style, his plans for forging ahead, or how to land a career in finance.

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