

Kathy Ran is a Brisbane, Australia based author.

She is of the firm belief that financial education is a mandatory requirement these days and that everyone should take responsibility for their own finances.

She thinks this is particularly important for women, for whom her books are specifically written, although the information is equally applicable to men.

Women are usually disadvantaged financially as they generally earn less than men, are commonly the main children's caregivers, which means they have more time off work impacting on their earning and saving capacity, are worse off after a divorce, especially if they have children, but live longer than men, requiring them to have more in savings or retirement funds. This is generally not the case.

She wants to empower women by providing them with enough financial knowledge and wisdom for them to be able to take control of their own finances and make informed decisions.

To do that she is working on a series of books, the first of which was published in August 2015, which covers basic financial information on saving, budgeting, eliminating debt, creating multiple streams of income and calculating retirement income. These vital things are not taught at school, so lack of knowledge about money and these basic things keep perpetuating themselves as parents do not pass on this important knowledge to their children.

She believes we must bring the conversation of money into the open. It should not be a taboo topic which is never discussed at the dinner table. She would like to bring the subject of finance and money out into the open and have everyone talk about it, especially to young children from a very early age. They have a much better chance at financial success in their life if they are taught the basics early, and she hopes to write or co-write a children's version of her book and books to start them on their journey.

As she says, "I didn't know what I didn't know until I started to study the topic of money and I found out that what I didn't know could have lifetime impact and effect on my entire life."