



**Monday, October 30, 2006**

## **ME calls for better regulation of Mortgage Brokers**

Members Equity Bank is calling for better regulation of mortgage brokers after recent legal action by ASIC against a Canberra mortgage broker.

Tony Beck, Head of Workplace Business for ME, said "Unlike banks, mortgage brokers are not adequately regulated, meaning consumers are open to exploitation. The actions of a few rogue brokers harms the reputation of brokers generally."

"The household budget is becoming increasingly difficult to manage in today's economic climate, and placing vulnerable customers at risk of further debt is unethical and bad for the finance industry."

"Members Equity welcomes all investigations into unethical lending practices. We encourage a review into the regulations of the mortgage brokerage industry, to ensure these sorts of dodgy deals don't occur again."

"Buying a house is one of the biggest investments most working Australians will make and it is vital their rights are protected."

"ME employs a rigorous lending policy to ensure mortgages are only provided to customers who can adequately support the debt."

"ME is proud of its responsible lending standards. Any request for a mortgage is assessed based on a person's income and liabilities, the history on their account and their employment status."

It would be contrary to our philosophy of fairness and respect if we were to contribute to a person's financial difficulty," he said.

Members Equity Bank (ME) works in partnership with the ACTU, affiliated unions and various industry superannuation funds to deliver a fair deal to working Australian families. ME is 100% Australian owned and is committed to providing exceptional customer service.

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For further information and comment contact: Tony Beck 0423 603 322