



About 20 per cent of Australian millionaires say they are interested in investing in the US and North American markets

PROFILE

Your Money

07

Experts can only take you so far

YOUR INVESTMENTS AUSSIES SHARE THEIR FINANCIAL STORIES

MARY Varsamidis is the director of Sponsorship Studio (sponsorshipstudio.com.au), a website she is starting up where organisations can list their sponsorship needs.

What was your first investment and how did it go?

I bought my first investment property in 2000 prior to the housing boom. The purchase proved to be a wise decision as the market value has increased considerably. Its prime position means that occupancy rate has been 100 per cent since purchase. As the property was bought brand new, I was also able to fully depreciate it.

What is your favourite type of investment and why?

A combination: Cash for the short to medium term to buy daily essentials and to support our family lifestyle, term deposits for medium term and security, and investment properties for the long term. I believe superannuation is also a good long-term strategy and investing extra funds at a young age can provide good financial rewards later in life.

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

My father. He encouraged me to respect money and to save for luxuries and future emergencies. He also taught me to avoid

unnecessary debts where possible (eg credit card and loans for items such as cars and holidays) and encouraged me to save before making purchases.

How do you approach investment risk?

I'm open-minded but I tend to take a more conservative approach. Diversifying my investments will provide me with more stability and rewards over the long term.

What has been your best-performing investment?

My property, which has increased in value and provided me with good rental revenue.

And the worst?

I dabbled in shares earlier on and did terribly.

Where do you source investment information?

I learnt a lot from my dad. I also trust my financial adviser who provides me with solid advice, options and educates me about the importance of superannuation and insurance.

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

I'd put \$5000 in the bank and with the remainder pay off the mortgage on my primary residence.

How do you feel about managed funds?

Explore carefully and ensure you work with someone you trust. Don't take all advice from the experts at face value. Do your homework. Ultimately, it's your money.

Do you make extra repayments off your mortgage?

Yes. I also try to have 2-3 months of extra mortgage payments saved as a precaution, should life throw a curve ball at me.

How well do you treat your credit card?

I put all my expenses on my account and pay it off each month. I use the points for magazine subscriptions or for vouchers to my favourite stores.

How do you feel about life and disability insurance?

An absolute must. It is vital to protect yourself and your family against life's uncertainties.



Picture: Brooke Whatnall

The Advertiser www.adelaidenow.com.au Monday, March 28, 2011 51

