





RISING PRESSURE

RISING INTEREST RATES ARE HITTING AUSTRALIANS HARD, BUT *SMART LIVING* HAS SOME TIPS TO PREPARE YOU FOR ANY FUTURE INCREASES.

Michael and Merryn Bayliss have had to postpone the family's annual overseas holiday, are terminating their pay TV connection and will reduce the number of dinners they enjoy out with the family to help them cope with last year's interest rate rises.

The young family from Sydney's Northern Beaches are a typical example of Australian homeowners who have had to tighten the family budget after the Reserve Bank increased official interest rates three times during 2006.

The rises have already added around \$200 a month to the Bayliss' repayments, and a further jump will add pressure to their already strained budget.

"We have had to tighten up our belt on luxuries we once took for granted like having Foxtel and going out for the occasional dinner," says Mr Bayliss, a chief anaesthetic technician at Castlecrag Private Hospital.

"It was particularly tough as the third hit came in the lead up to Christmas. We would usually take the kids to Bali but we have