GRIFFITH University has set up a Centre for Financial Independence and Education at its Logan campus.

Director Mark Brimble said an official launch was planned for June or July.

A lecturer in financial planning at the university, Victoria Vyyyan, said the centre researched and promoted financial literacy, independence and empowerment.

She said workshops at Logan Women’s Health Centre helped women take their first steps in financial independence.

They covered the gamut of identifying money myths, goal-setting, money management, investment principles, how to get effective advice, how to avoid scams and understanding debt.

"Some projects are about to start with Youth and Family Services in Logan, working with young people who are pretty much on the margin," Ms Vyyyan said.

Workshops for couples were also planned this year in Ipswich and Caboolture.

"One of our target areas is those financially excluded and who have low levels of financial literacy," Ms Vyyyan said.

She said budgets were only the beginning.

By RENAE ROBINSON

"It’s a bit like managing your weight and your fitness," she said.

"It’s not just a matter of printing a diet off the internet.

"It’s not going to work unless you become aware of what all your values are, or behaviour."

The centre also hoped to work with the financial planning profession.

"There are a lot of people who fall through the gaps in terms of financial planning," she said.

Jacqueline Parker, managing director of HN Financial Partners in Brisbane, said she knew a lot of financial planners in the smaller end of the market who did free work, but the Financial Services Reform Act had made that more difficult.

She welcomed the creation of the centre, "I think they could be really valuable to help us educate financial planners in understanding how we can help people who have traditionally fallen through the cracks," Ms Parker said.

She said unemployed people were ignored by the industry. Not one of the financial planning training courses focused on how to help them.