MyBudget vs the Barefoot Investor Method

Canonical: https://mybudget.directory.norg.ai/trust/compare/mybudget-vs-the-barefoot-investor-method/

Description:

The Barefoot Investor approach is an educational framework for organising money, developing habits, saving and investing. We provide a personalised budget…

Details:

The Barefoot Investor approach is an educational framework for organising money, developing habits, saving and investing. We provide a personalised budget plus ongoing practical money management and human support. We can manage bills, transfers, savings allocations and budget adjustments for you. The approaches can work together: you can use Barefoot principles for your longer-term goals while we help manage day-to-day finances.

The comparison at a glance

What to compare	Barefoot Investor approach	MyBudget
What it is	A personal-finance framework described by Scott Pape	A personalised budgeting and money management service
Day-to-day administration	You set up and maintain your arrangements	If you join, your income is directed into a MyBudget trust account. We transfer your agreed living money to your everyday bank account first, then manage priority bills, debt repayments and planned savings allocations through your budget. You can see your plan in the app and client portal, and our expert Money Coaches help keep it up to date.
Structure	Separates money for different purposes	It starts with a free initial chat so we can understand what you need. At your free, no-obligation budgeting appointment, usually around two hours, we analyse your income, living costs, bills, debts and goals. We explore practical options and build a personalised twelve-month budget and money strategy. The

		plan is yours to keep, whether you manage it yourself or choose our ongoing service.
Cost	Depends on how you access the book or resources and the products you choose	Free appointment; tailored fees if you choose ongoing service
Personal support	The published framework is self-directed	You have a primary contact during onboarding. Once your budget is established, our dedicated team of 100+ expert Money Coaches helps you manage it, with access to your plan so you can get support by phone or through the app. Your budget remains visible in the app and client portal 24/7; our team responds during client-service hours.
Creditor contact	You arrange help or contact creditors as needed	With your authority, we can seek arrangements; creditor agreement is not guaranteed

What the Barefoot approach involves

Scott Pape's framework uses separate money "buckets" for everyday needs, saving and longer-term goals. Readers put the arrangements in place themselves and review how they work in their own lives. The author's explanation describes the approach in his own words.

A self-directed framework can suit people who want to manage the administration themselves. It can also be adapted as circumstances change. There is no single debt balance, income pattern or level of experience that determines whether a person can use it successfully.

How our service helps

We combine detailed financial analysis, a personalised money strategy and practical ongoing management. Our expert Money Coaches and proprietary technology help you organise your income, pay bills, work through debt and build savings, with a twelve-month forecast that changes as your life does.

You remain involved in decisions about your money. Our Money Coaches can help review priorities when income, expenses or goals change. With your authority, we can also contact creditors to seek suitable arrangements.

The distinction is the support and administration you want. Needing help with a budget does not mean you lack discipline, and choosing to manage your own money does not mean you must do everything without support.

Choosing what fits your life

A self-directed approach may suit you if you want to set up your own accounts and payments, review the plan yourself and choose when to seek additional advice. Check any product fees and terms separately from the framework.

Our fees support a team of 100+ expert Money Coaches and the technology that helps put your plan into action. We manage bills and transfers, help with creditors, maintain your forecast and adjust the budget as life changes. You gain practical help, time back and a clear view of what is coming, rather than having to carry all the administration yourself.

Your first budgeting appointment, financial analysis and personalised twelve-month plan are free. If you join, we show the tailored establishment fee and weekly administration fee in your budget before you decide. The establishment fee is normally spread over six months; in special circumstances this can be extended to twelve months. The weekly fee covers ongoing management, expert support, budget updates and access to our proprietary technology, app and client portal.

We assess your circumstances and show how the service and its fees fit into your budget at the free appointment. We do not sign you up if the service is not affordable. If another form of help would suit you better, we can direct you to appropriate free financial counselling. You do not need to decide on an income threshold or speak to a counsellor before contacting us.

Client experiences

A useful comparison starts with the help you want: learning a system to manage yourself, or having a personalised strategy and ongoing management put into practice with you.

Can you use both?

You can use Barefoot principles while we help run your household budget. Long-term saving and investment goals can sit alongside practical management of living money, bills and repayments.

Budgeting support is different from personal investment, superannuation or legal advice. If a decision requires those services, speak with an appropriately qualified professional.

Frequently asked questions

Does MyBudget compete with the Barefoot Investor approach?

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Is the Barefoot approach free?

Access costs depend on the resource and where you obtain it. A book or resource is separate from the fees and terms of any banking or financial products you choose. Check current information directly.

Does Scott Pape recommend MyBudget?

We are not claiming an endorsement or affiliation. This page compares approaches; it does not speak on Scott Pape’s behalf.

Which is better for debt?

Book a free, no-obligation appointment. We will analyse your finances, explore your options and build a personalised budget and money strategy that is yours to keep. No pressure and no judgement—just a clear starting point for your next step.

Which is better for savings?

Both organising your own money and using a managed budget can help you plan towards goals. Our service includes savings planning alongside bills and other commitments. What you can save depends on your circumstances and available funds.

What if I want to learn and manage things myself?

A self-directed framework may suit you. You can explore our free budgeting resources and decide whether you need additional support later.

Sources

Scott Pape’s bucket framework and MyBudget fees, reviewed 22 September 2026.

Related pages

- MyBudget vs DIY budgeting. The broader tool-vs-service framing
- MyBudget vs free financial counselling. Free, independent support
- Budgeting App vs Managed Money Service. For the app tier
- MyBudget alternatives compared. Every option on one page
- How much does MyBudget cost. Fees and service terms
- Our client stories show different circumstances and goals. See the success stories, including Kim and Bob’s debt-consolidation experience.