



## COMMUNITY CPS REVEALS MERGER PLANS

**Embargo 9 March 2005**

Community CPS, Canberra's biggest credit union, and its South Australian counterpart, CPS Credit Union Limited, have agreed in principle to merge.

When approved, the new credit union will become one of the largest and most influential credit unions in Australia with 140,000 members, 400 employees and assets worth more than \$1.4 billion.

In a joint statement released today (Wednesday March 9) Community CPS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Robert Keogh, and CPS South Australia Chief Executive Officer, Mr Kevin Bengel, said the new credit union would be known as ***Community CPS Australia Limited***.

The Boards of both credit unions had agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding for the merger in February this year, they said. The credit unions had also agreed to equal representation - five Directors from each credit union and alternative Board meetings in Canberra and Adelaide.

The merger, which is expected to take place 1 October this year, would be subject to the approval of members from both credit unions, due diligence reviews and regulatory endorsement.

"The two credit unions have enjoyed a long association of around 30 years and I am confident that members will see the significant benefits from the merger," Mr Keogh said.

"Our business strategies are closely aligned and we share a common heritage of servicing Commonwealth Public Service employees. We also share a range of strong business synergies. I am satisfied the merger will provide all CPS members with greater access to award winning products and will allow us to further improve our ongoing commitment to personalise service," he said.

The merger would also provide members with an even broader range of financial advice because our South Australian counterpart is well advanced in areas such as wealth management and tax and accounting services.

"Initially, the operations of both credit unions would continue as usual and there would be further expansion of the ACT and region branch network throughout 2005", Mr Keogh said. The merger would also deliver a new retail banking computer system for CPS ACT.

Currently, Community CPS has more than 50,000 members, 100 employees and 8 branches within the ACT and NSW.

CPS Credit Union South Australia has 90,000 members and more than 300 employees across 11 personal finance centers throughout regional and metropolitan South Australia.

CPS South Australia was recently named Australia's Best Credit Union in Money Magazine's Best of the Best Awards. Like Community CPS, they have a particularly strong focus on creating and returning value to their members.

### **Further information:**

**Robert Keogh**  
**Chief Executive**

**6286 0502**  
**0419 630 508**