

University of Canberra Student Budget Planner app

High Fidelity Prototype Evaluation Report

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Project 3: High Fidelity Prototype Evaluation Report | 9291 User Interface Design and Experience

April, 2018



Click on icon or URL below to view the high fidelity app prototype
and have an interactive walk through



UC Student Budget
Planner app

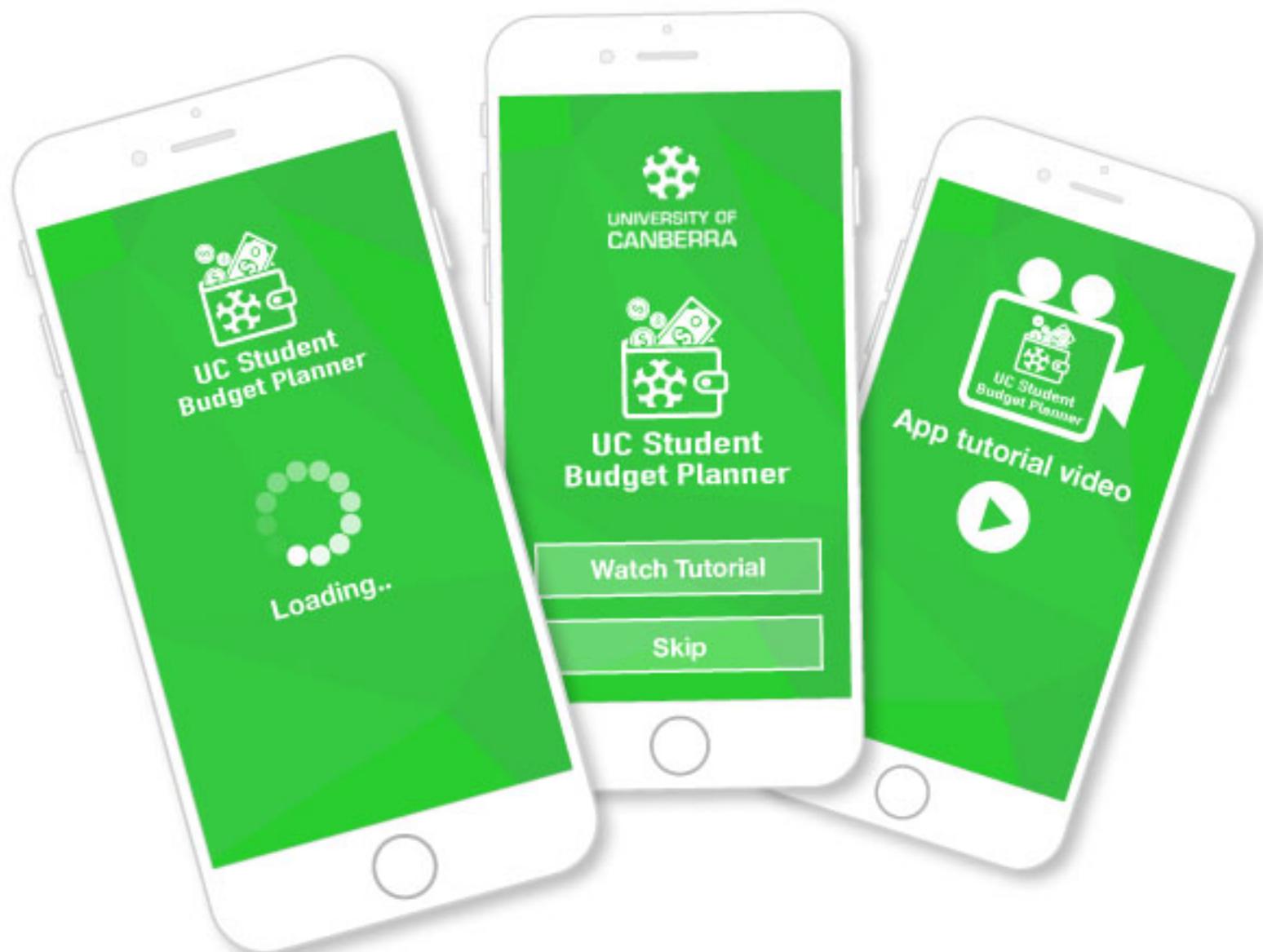


https://invis.io/ASH9XEJX95G#/292309041_1-_Welcome_Page





Introduction



The first year of University can be tough and challenging for students of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. A lot will find it hard to adjust to the new surroundings and learning expectations that come with University courses. Studies have shown that new students have a high tendency of not fulfilling the first year of study as they cannot manage the requirements. Some return to try and reclaim their studies though again many do not return at all finding it all too difficult and challenging to deal with (Natasha Robinson, 2017).

One of the key issues and hardships students face is financial hardship and pressure. Earning a liveable level of income and dedicating a suitable amount of time for your studies is a difficult and testing line. Many will fall short in dedicating the sufficient amount of hours needed to fulfil the work, study and play requirements.

App Project Background

Overview

The University of Canberra Student Budget Planner app is designed to assist and help students with financial budgeting. The app has key budgeting tools for the student to understand the initial income coming in (monthly, weekly or when ever) and then identify the costs they will face each week and for other weeks to come knowing how spendings and savings should be dedicated.



David M. Katz. (August 24, 2016). Special Report: Budgeting and Planning's Changing World

App Project Background

Objectives

The main positive outcome from using this app and managing your finances is relieving the stresses surrounding financial hardship and strain, which is a really big load off anyone's back. Other great outcomes are to then get a kick start in budgeting for future years and cutting down on spending.



THE GULF TIME, (June 2, 2016). Special Report: ME Suppliers Feel The Squeeze as Governments Cut Spending

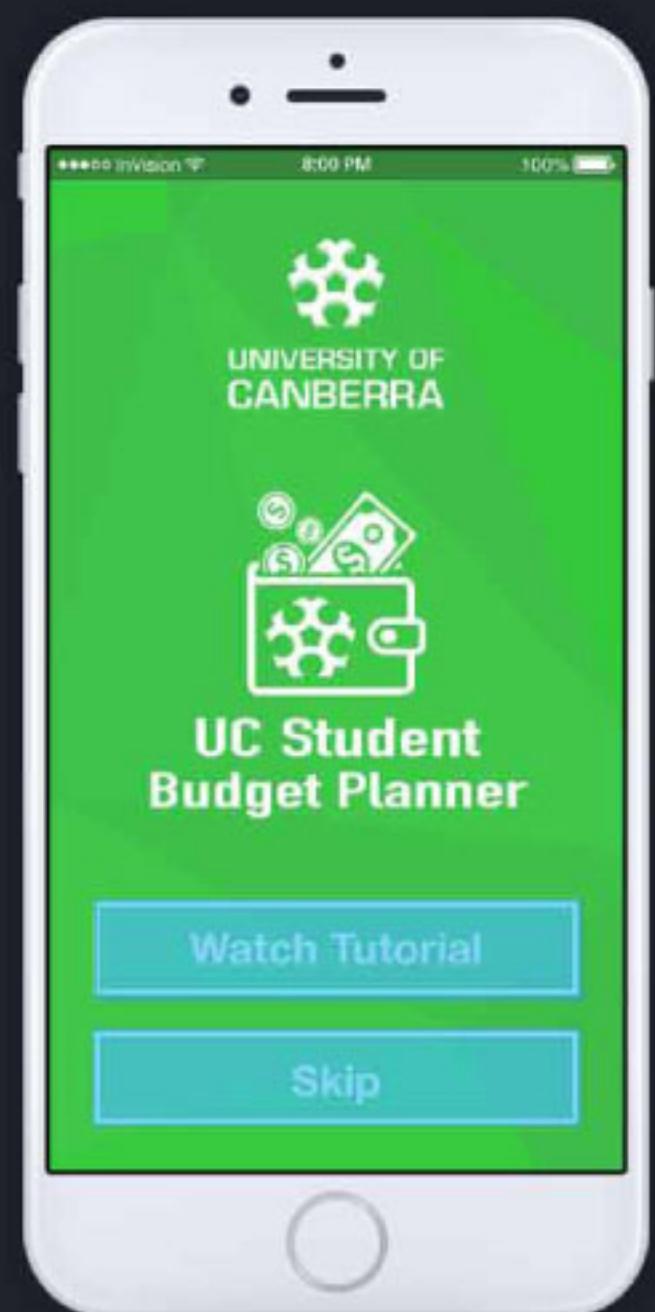
The app aims to:

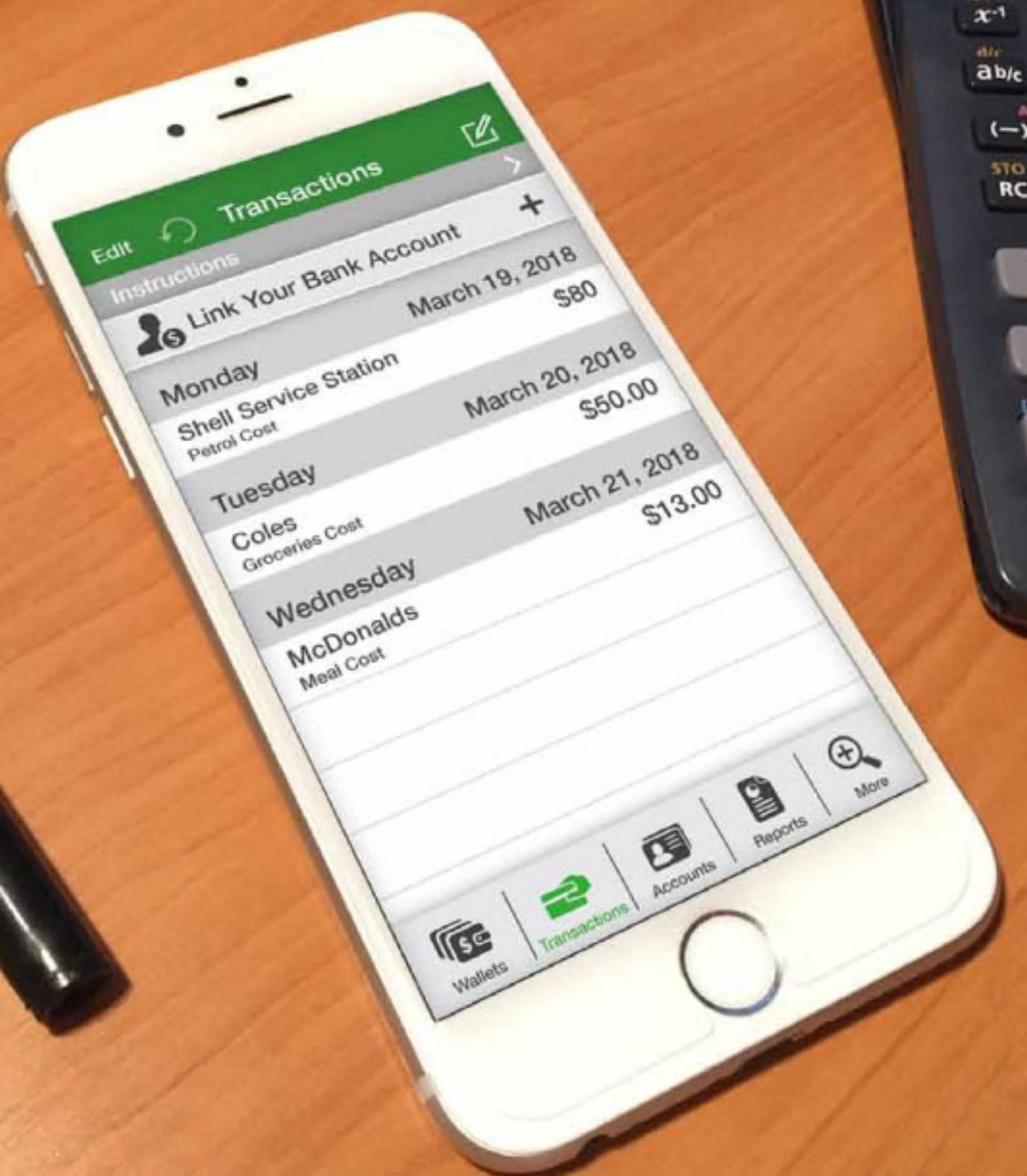
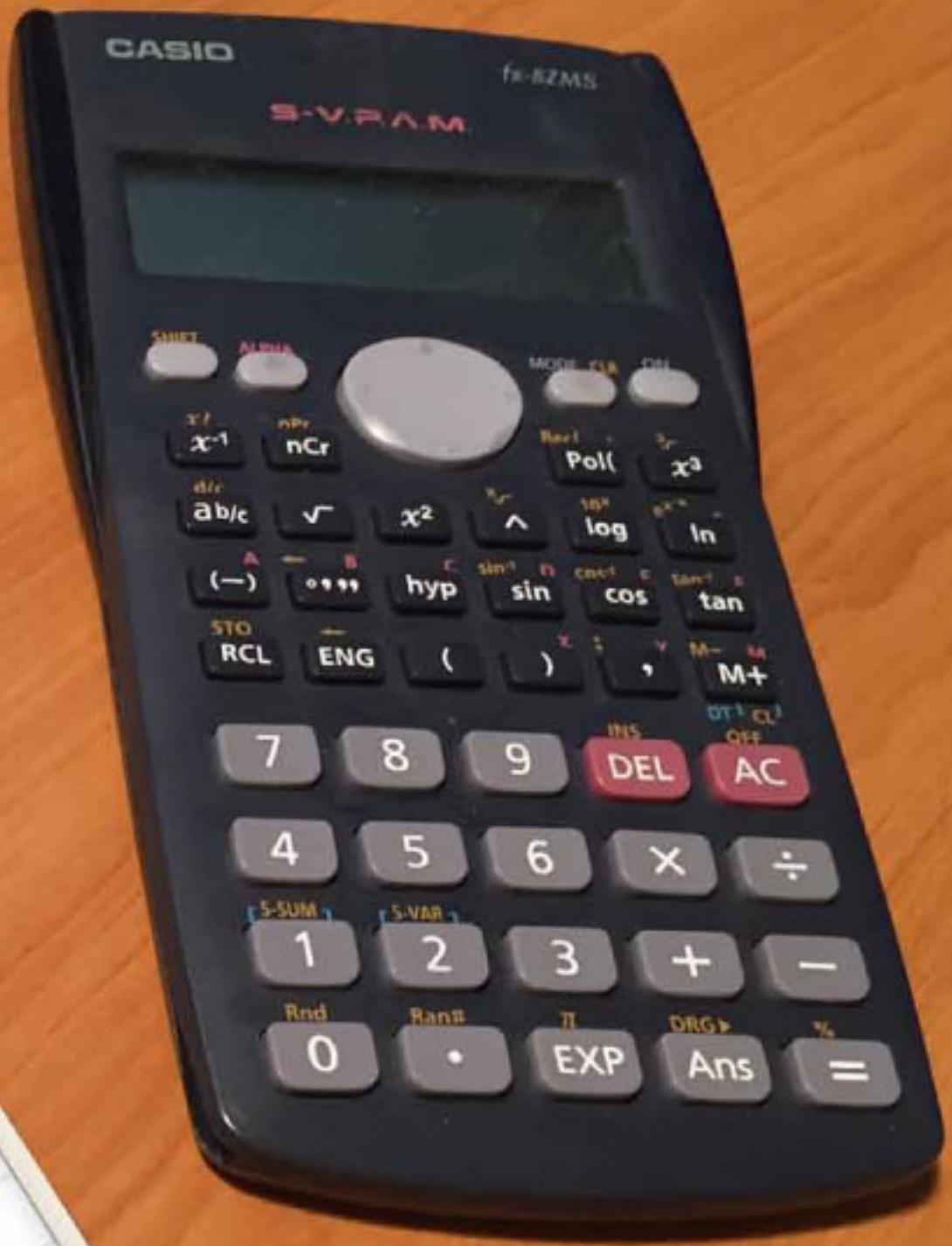
- Ensure students have a grasp on their spending and budgeting to assist in growing of thier savings to allow for a financial safety net.
- Alleviate student stresses surrounded by financial strain and hardship.
- Provide more study time, as students will have knowledge of the hours they need to work weekly.
- Give students an early understanding for how budgeting works and the positive outcomes, which will assitst them in their future years.
- Set students up with banks and credit card vendors (if required) providing the best current rates and features provided.
- Give the student the option of saving to have the full or partial (\$500 or more) up front course fees payment allowing them to receive the 10% discount that HECS-HELP Commonwealth student support system offers for Australian Residents. This will also save students from having a large HECS bill to pay after their studies are complete.
- Grow students planning abilities and techniques.

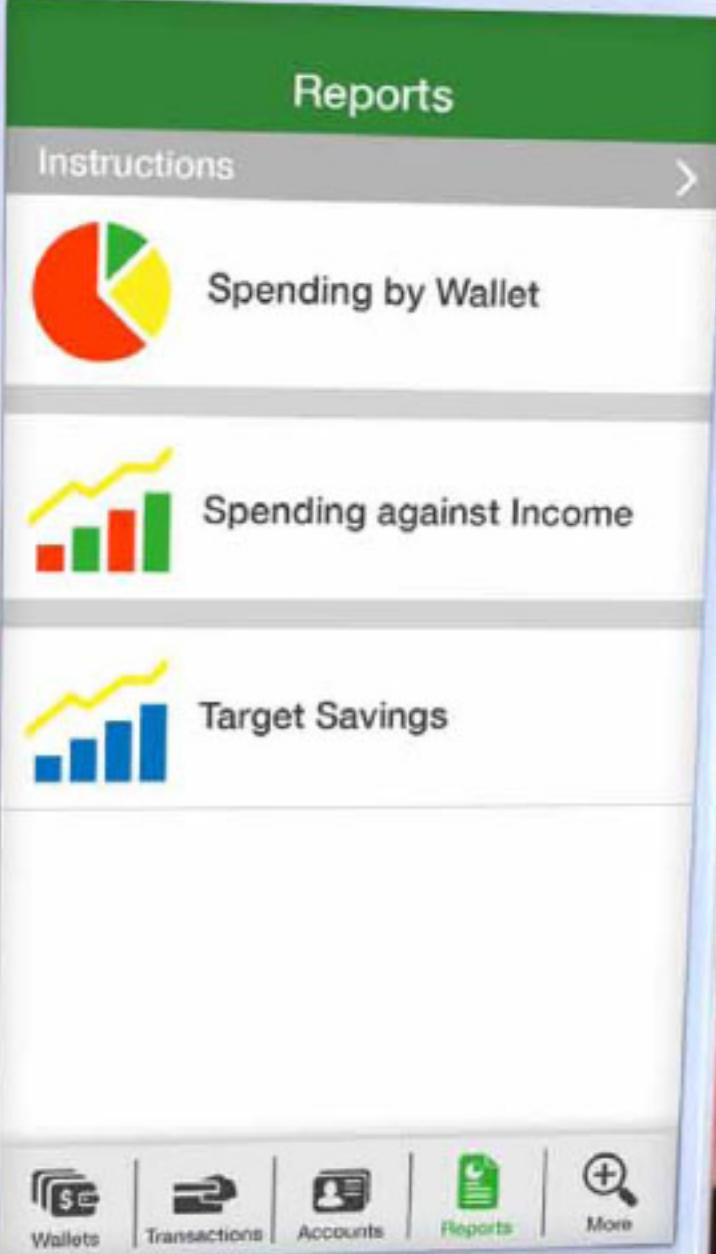
The Prototype



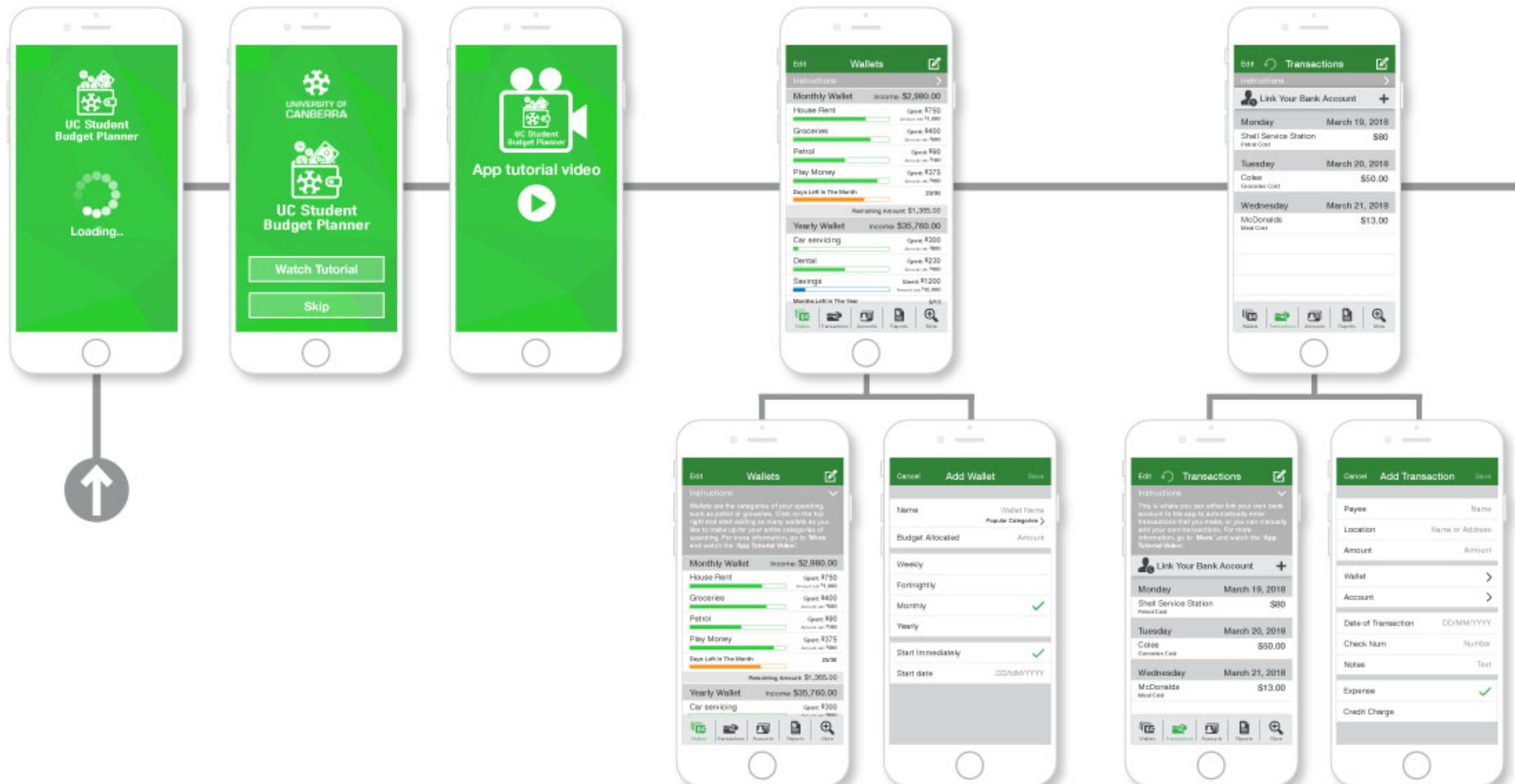
UC Student Budget Planner app







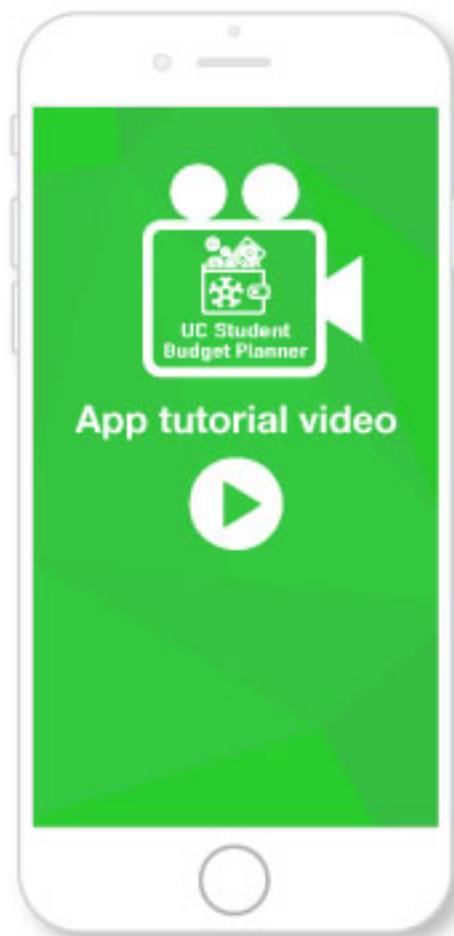
App Design Concept (key pages only)



App Design Concept (key pages only)

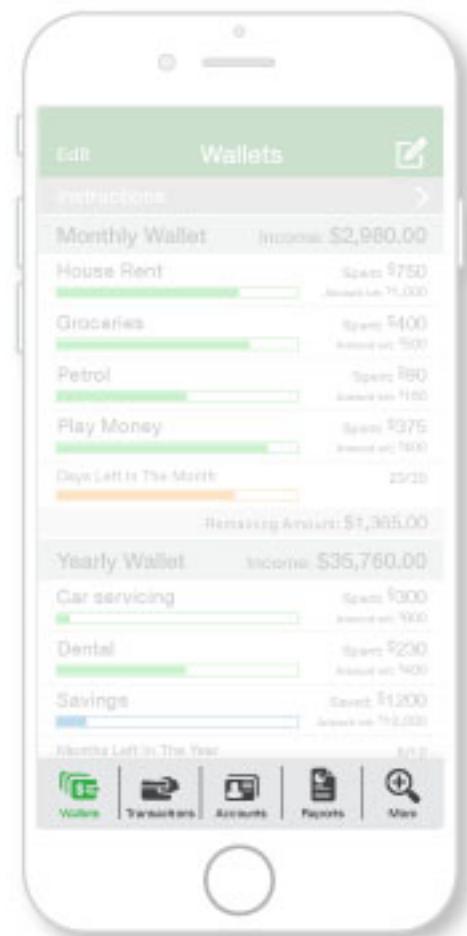


App Prototype Key Features



App tutorial video

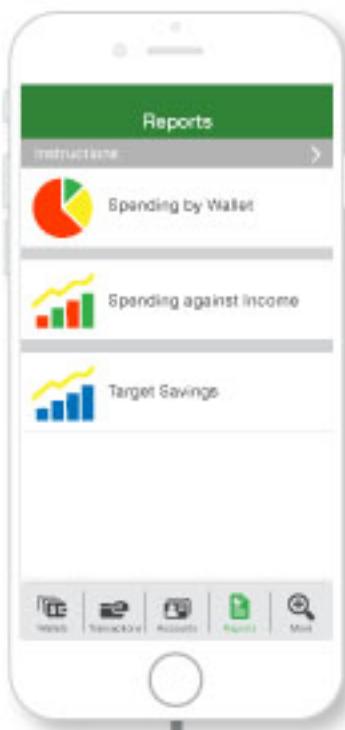
When landing on the welcome page, you have the option to watch the app 'How to use' tutorial video that will run the user through the objectives and features of the app.



Main navigation bar

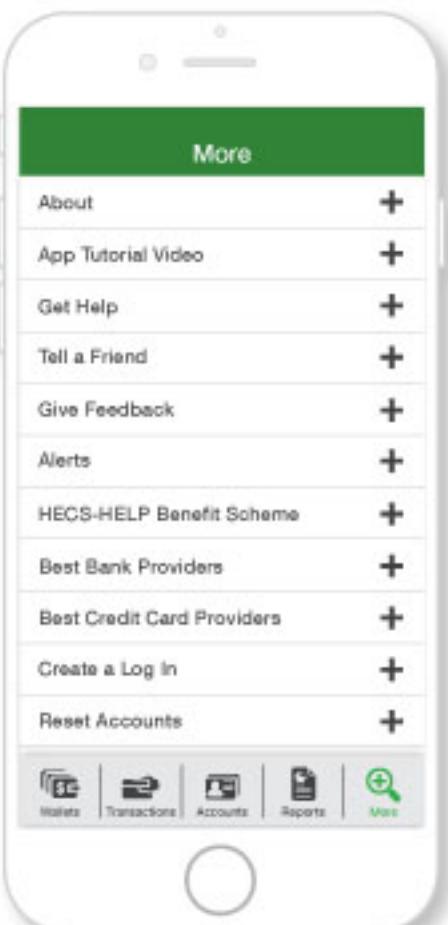
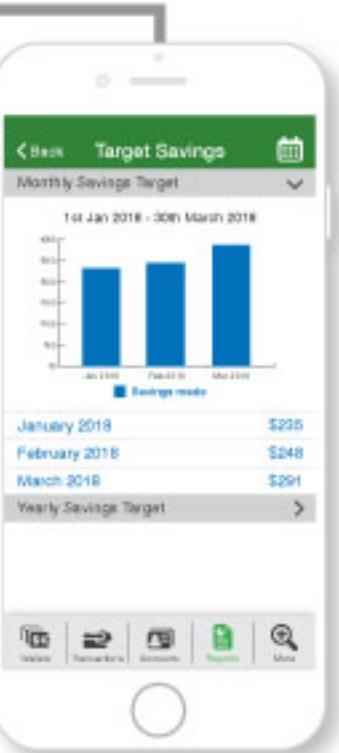
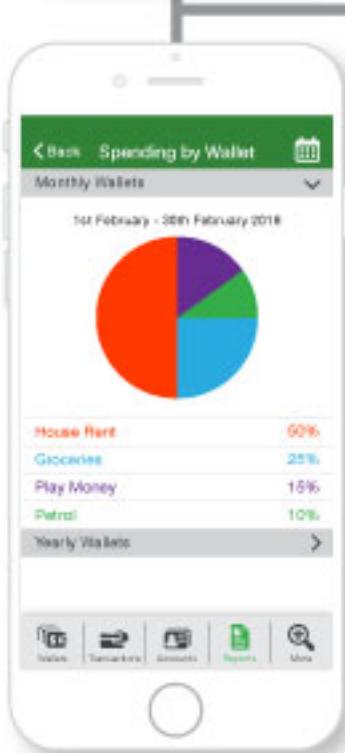
Rather than over complicating the design with multiple navigation pages or drop down menus, there is only the one main navigation bar visible at the footer of each main page. It is simply designed with the use of icons to help in understanding the different page links.

App Prototype Key Features



Budgeting report

Within the 'Reports' page there are useful and easy to understand report sections provided in the form of a pie chart ('Spending by Wallet') and bar graphs ('Spending against income' and 'Target Savings'). These are great ways to give you a quick and simple snapshot into how your spending and saving is balancing out overall compared to the costs you list to make.



Useful 'More' information pages

Within the 'More' page there are useful information and account settings pages that you can go to. Some of the highly useful portals provided is the HECS-HELP Benefit Scheme that provides a 10% course fees discount when a certain level or complete payment is made up front. Another highly useful set of portals are the 'Best Bank Providers' and 'Best Credit Card Providers' which offers up to date information on banks offering the best rates and features for students and people in general. Other great features this page provides is the ability to turn on and create log in details to keep your information secure and the option to tell friends about the app.

App Design Choices



#2D9131

#33AC33

#35C941

Main Colour Choice

The main colour choice was to use the standard internationally recognised money green.

Original concept



Developed concept



Parent logo



Branding (logo)

Initially the UCSBP app branding incorporated a simple icon design with wording placed horizontally adjacent, though with further thought, the idea came to create a little more detailed icon and have the text vertically centred underneath as the University of Canberra logo is (to the above right).

Main Navigation Button Icons



Wallets



Transactions



Accounts



Reports



More

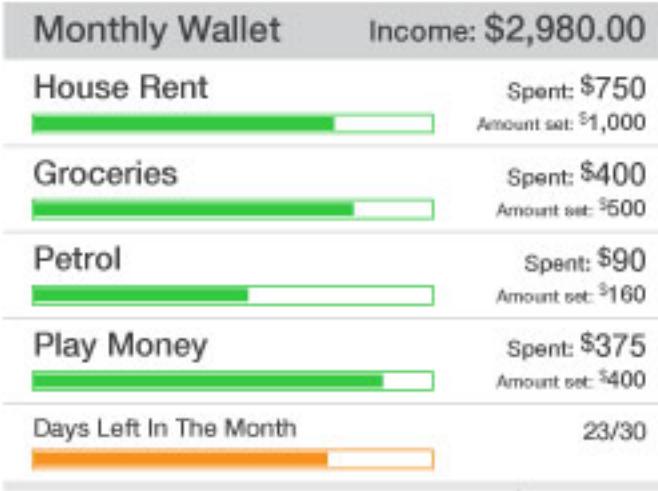
Universal Icons Used



Icon Use

A series of easily understandable icons have been created and used throughout the app design as a secondary form of title identification. Along with that universal known icons have been adapted again to help the user get a clear understanding for the features.

App Design Choices



Percentage Bars

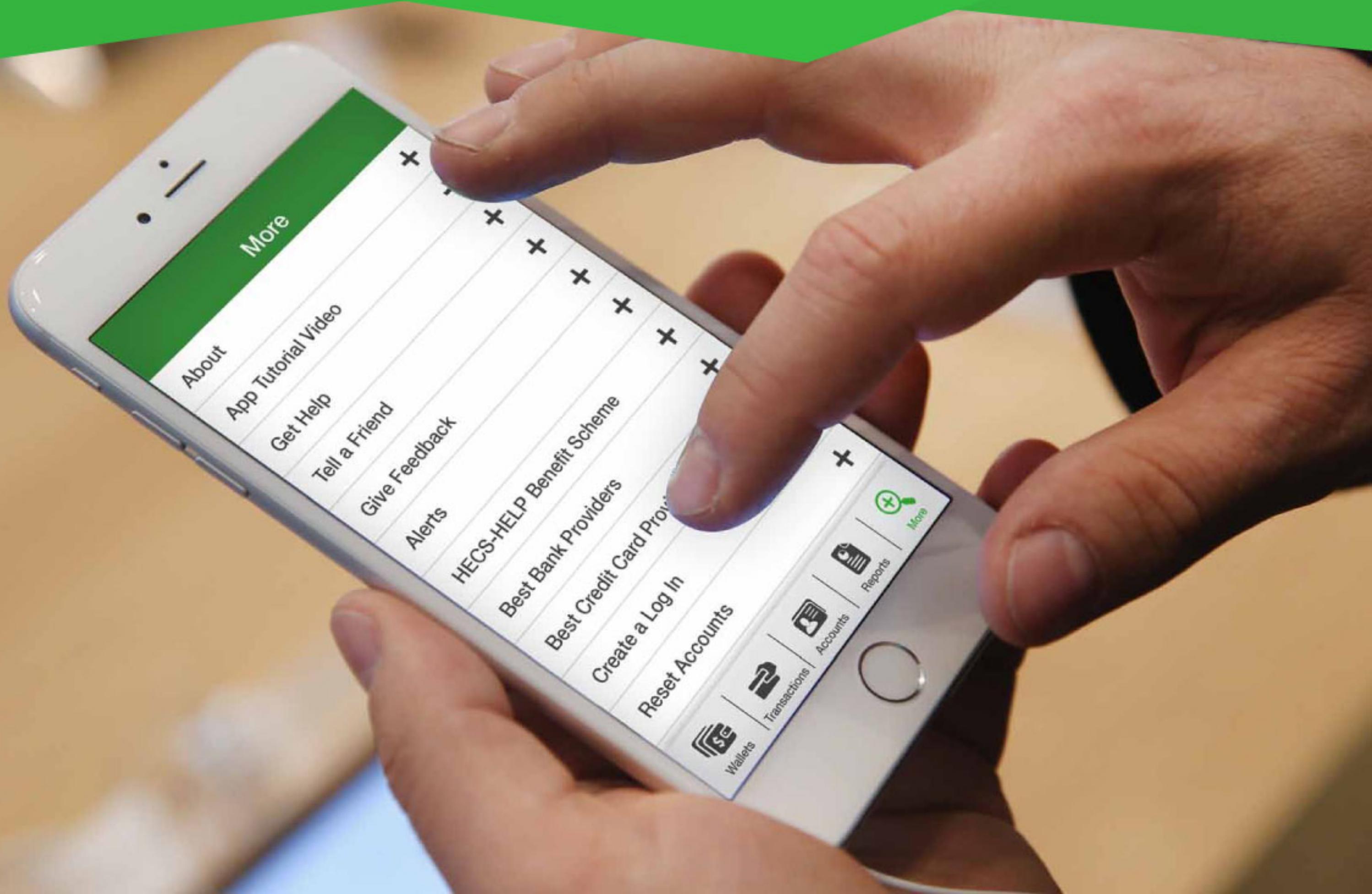
On the wallet page, total amount percentage bars are used to give the user a clear and simple understanding of the percentage amount spent compared to the total set for that topic.



Report Pie Chart And Bar Graph

The 'Reports' page offers the user a pie chart graphic that analysis 'Spending by Wallet' and bar graphs that analyses 'Spending against Income' and 'Target Savings'. The intension was to design these and display in a simple form with bright relative colours to the other pages.

App Prototype Evaluation



App Prototype Evaluation

Self-evaluation

I was pleased with the design concept I came up with as my main objective was to make it as simple and clear as possible for the user and I feel it has achieved that. Being a graphic designer and knowing our tendencies and understanding that we tend to over design a product in order to achieve the wow factor. Though with this, I felt I held myself back from doing so.

Initial user testing

When I was happy with my concept design, I then created an initial user testing interactive prototype using Invisionapp.com. Making an interactive prototype allows the user to get a clear understanding of the apps features rather than only using static concept imagery.

I used Invision's sharing platform to retrieve the public user testing. Invision provides private and public sharing platforms in order to get private and public feedback for your prototype. This allowed me to send the interactive link to users through email or text message.

I used a number of family, friends and work colleagues as my chosen candidates to test the app. The array of user tester types and ages helped to give a varied range of feedback.

Below is a link to the initial interactive app prototype mock up



UC Student Budget Planner app

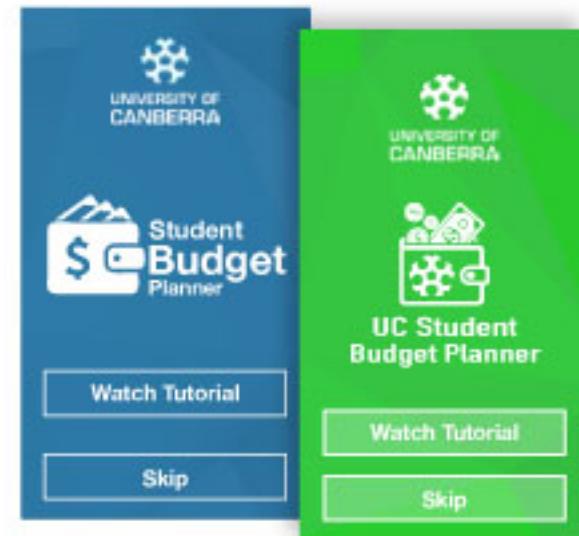
https://invis.io/ASH9XEJX95G#/292309041_1-_Welcome_Page

App Prototype Development

The overall comments the initial user tester gave were quite positive and the feedback was very useful in order to get a different view on certain aspects of the app prototype.

The following comments were received in regards to the initial prototype:

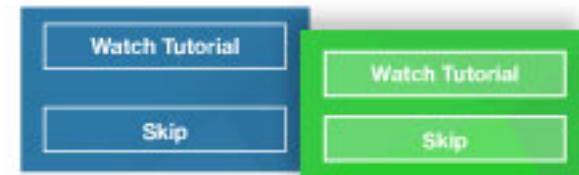
1. Change the app main colour from blue to green so it ties in more with the finance (money) theme.



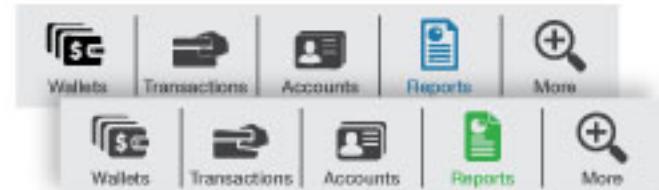
2. Tone down the vibrancy of the green welcome background texture, as it is a tad intense.



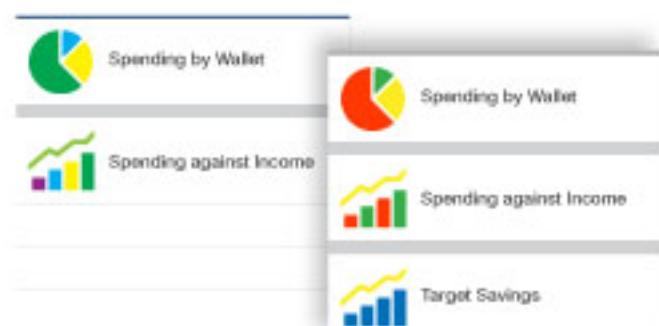
3. Make the welcome page buttons more defined as buttons.



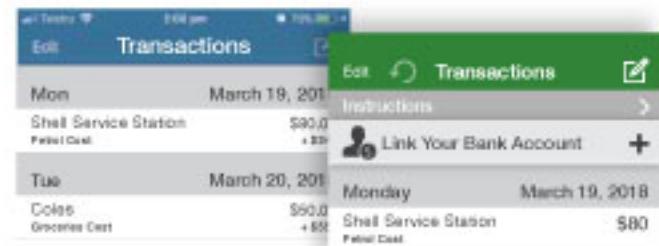
4. Standardise the icons appearance in the main navigation bar, as the reports icon does not pair stylistically with the rest.



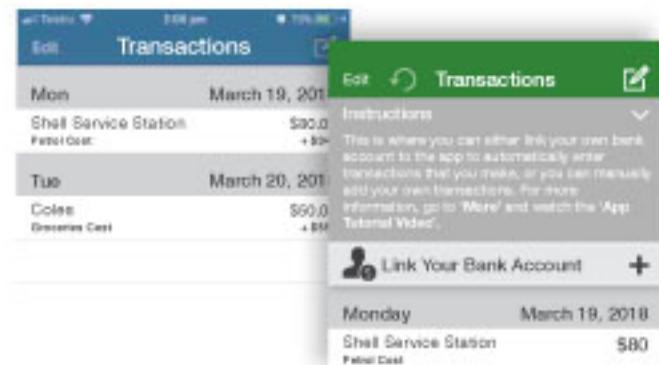
5. On the 'Reports' page, have a savings report along with the other reports, as this will be useful with one of the main objectives to grow your savings.



6. On the 'Transactions' page, have bank account linking capabilities to give the user the option for the app to automatically retrieve their banks transactions.

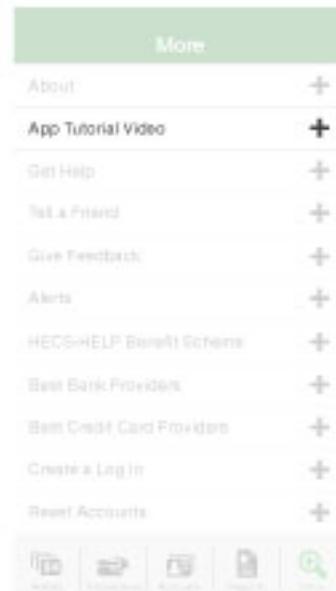


7. Have some form of text information on each of the pages so the user has a clear understanding for how each of the pages work.

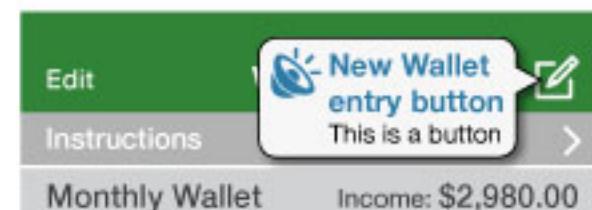


App Prototype Development

8. On the 'More' page, have a button so the user can watch the app how to tutorial video later if they wish to.



9. Add a hover messages for the buttons to give a brief description of the buttons objective.



Refer to the Appendix on pages 23 and 24 for some of the prototype test subjects feedback and comments.

App Prototype Development

After collecting all the initial user testing interactive prototype feedback, I then used the changes mentioned in the previous page to modify the concept for the second user testing of the interactive app prototype. For this round of user testing, I used a new group of varied user testers in order to get fresh feedback.

The feedback received was again positive with the overall look and structure of the app. A change suggestion was to add a selected field button for the account fields on the “Accounts” page to help demonstrate that you have to select the field you would like to view the budget information regarding.

Active Accounts

Account Name:	Income Amount:
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Josh's Personal Account	\$2,980.00

Active Credit Cards

Account Name:	Card Amount Limit:
<input type="radio"/> Josh's St George Credit Card	\$2,000.00

Another comment made was that the ‘Monthly Ave Over A Year’ segment within the ‘Wallet’ page was a bit confusing as it just was not clear of how the segment actually worked and how it added up the amount given. This segment has been removed in the more recent concept design.

Yearly Wallet	Income: \$35,760.00
Monthly Ave Over A Year	Spent: \$19,380
	Amount set: \$24,720

Conclusion

With the study I have undertaken and the feedback received has again reinforced my theory that the UC Student Budget Planner app will be a great addition to this cause. All of my user feedback candidates have expressed their love of this idea and almost all saying that they too would love to give this app a try themselves in order to manage their budget better.

Providing first year students with this app will give them a budgeting head start for their first year of study and alleviate the level of stress that arises from financial hardship.



References

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THE GULF TIME. (June 2, 2016). Special Report: ME suppliers feel the squeeze as governments cut spending [Cutting Costs image resource].

Retrieved from:

<http://emirates-business.ae/me-suppliers-feel-the-squeeze-as-governments-cut-spending/>

Appendix

Initial Prototype Testing - Comments

Work Colleagues



"Great job man it looks great. The only bit of feedback would be to maybe think of using green instead of blue to give it a more money vibe"



"It looks really good buddy. My only advice would be to maybe change the report icon to an all black icon to match the others better"

Family



"I really like it son and would love to give it a try. Where can I find it once it has been created. I dont think I would change anything, it all seems very clear and straight forward to me. I will show Brian ad see if he has any thing to add "



"Nice one bro. You could you maybe add like a info graphic type thing on each of the pages give some sort of instructions and for each page works"

Friends



"Dude this is pretty neat, I will have to get you to whip an app up for me when I get my business going. My only thing to add, is that the 'Watch Tutorial' and 'Skip' buttons were not heaps clear. Maybe just make them a bit more buttony "



"This is COOL COOL COOL. So will you be creating this for real? It could be super handy for it to have bank account linking abilities as it looks like it is just manual transaction entering and I would probably get over doing that after a while."



"Good job Joshy, I love it man. Just something I would consider coming from web myself, is to make sure to add a hover message that explains the buttons objective for people with hearing disabilities"



"Hell Yeah, killing it dude. It looks like a bit of work has gone into this. It all seem to be easy to understand how it works and all that. The only small bit of advise I would give is to somehow be able to go back and watch the tutorial video as I accidentally hit skip but then wanted to go back and watch it. Not a biggie though."

Appendix

Final Prototype Testing - Comments

Work Colleagues



"This is pretty cool. I don't think I would change a thing. Good work Josh!"



"Dope as man. I really like how you have structured it and used icons with the page buttons. The colour is nice and eye catching to. That's 5 stars from me"

Family



"YAAAY your so talented. This is so cool and useful. I need this in my life. Being a student, I would really use this."



"Great job on this Josh, You have really designed this well. Just a spelling mistake. On the Transaction page in the info drop down 'automatically' should have be 'automatically'. Then on the on the Accounts page info drop down, I think there might be a double between 'accounts as'."

Friends



"I love it babe, you are super talented. I don't think there is anything I would really change, it all seems easy to understand and to move through."



"Its so cool, big ups to you. Can non student use it cause I would love to once its done. Nothing to report on for me, it is perfect."



"Yeah Joshie!!! I think this is hella good. Sign me up for 2. I don't have anything to add. It is clear and easy to work out how to use it."



"Sweeeeet dude. This is cool as. The only insy winsy thing I noticed is the buttons at the bottom of the page is a little unevenly spaced. But I only picked that up cause I am a bit anal with that kind of thing. So anyone else wouldn't."

