

Future Problem Solving New Zealand - Problem #2 - 2000 Primary Division Future Scene - Financial Security - OPTION B

Huki and Kathryn Rensar and their children Armin, 10, and Roxanne, 13, are holding a family conference to discuss their problems.

The parents are both have well paid jobs at New Zealand's most successful genetic engineering company, EnGen. Both children want to go to university.

While in university, Huki and Kathryn used their holiday pay to buy stocks and shares through the Internet. They learned that if you invested \$10,000 in your early twenties, when you reached 65 you would have \$450,000. This money along with their superannuations from their employer would provide for their retirement. At first, the family lived in a small home and was careful with their expenses.

EnGen has been a very successful company. Huki and Kathryn have also done well with their stocks and shares. Saving has not been as important for them. They do have some money saved for Roxanne's university expenses.

Many people who work at EnGen lead expensive lifestyles. Huki and Kathryn thought they could live like this too. Two years ago in 2018, the Rensar's bought one of the expensive, new "smart homes" and two new aero-cars. Now the stock market has been down and they have lost some income. Lately, their bills use up most of their earnings.

Armin spends much of his life on-line and has been persuaded to set up an on-line business, buying and selling old Pokemon toys. He will need \$3000 to help start up this business. His parents will lend him \$1500 to be repaid over two years. He will also use the \$1500 he has saved from his holiday job working at his uncle's bungee-jumping business.

Roxanne finds it hard to save much money. She has had several holiday jobs, but being a teenager these days is very expensive. Holoadvertising persuades young people to spend their money on the latest fads like glow-in-the-dark hair dyes. Her latest purchase, a four-person hoverboard, has taken most of her savings.

Two months ago, serious problems were found with some of EnGen's products. This may cause the company to go out of business. EnGen has laid off 75% of its employees including Kathryn and Huki. Now, the members of the family need to use their strengths to decide how to deal with the financial problems that will affect them all.

Help the Rensars to consider their situation by using your FPS skills. As a team, discuss the situation and generate challenges that caused this situation as well as the challenges that result from it. Select an underlying problem and generate a list of possible solutions.