

Moving out of home

Moving out of home can be overwhelming. There are many reasons why people move out of home, sometimes it's a choice and other times it's not. There are questions you need to ask yourself before moving out of home to ensure you're safe. It's also worth checking out the support that's available for young people leaving home.

Most people will eventually leave the home they grew up in and find a home of their own, even if only temporarily. Some people leave home when they are quite young, other people don't move out until they start their own family, and some people live with their family all their lives.

Why you might be moving out of home

There are many reasons why people think about moving out of home. Some of the more common reasons include...

For education or work. For many people, the reason they move out of home has something to do with either employment or education. Moving to a different city or deciding to live on campus can mean you move out of home at a relatively early age.

Conflict. Sometimes the thought of leaving home seems easier than resolving conflict with parents or carers. Other times conflict can result in being asked to leave. Either way, leaving as a result of conflict can be fairly unexpected and hard to handle. It's emotionally and financially hard – make sure you check out the support that is available to you if this happens.

Space or privacy. As you get older it can be more and more difficult to live under your parents or carer's rule. Sometimes the temptation of moving out is coupled with a desire for independence.

Questions to ask yourself when moving out of home

When you begin to plan leaving home it is a good idea to think through the all the things you need to prepare.

Stuff to think through before deciding to leave home may include:

“Do I have somewhere safe to live?” If you are over 18 and have a stable income you can probably move into shared accommodation with friends or look at renting your own place. However, if you are under 18, you may find that it is difficult to rent a house or sign a lease because of your age.

This might help if you.....

- › *Are moving out of home for school or uni*
- › *Want to know more about leaving home*
- › *Are leaving home because of conflict with parents or carers*

Take action...

- › *Find the right living space for you that will make you feel safe*
- › *Get some family or friend support to help you move*
- › *Make sure you consider all the different challenges of moving out*

If you are leaving home because of family conflict or abuse, then there are refuges and supported accommodation services that may be available to you.

“Do I have enough money to support myself?” Try working out a budget to see how much money you need each week to pay the rent and buy what you need.

If you do not have a job or are still studying you may be eligible for social security payments. Contact your nearest Centrelink office to find out what benefits you're eligible to receive.

“Who can support me in making the move?” Often leaving home is easiest if your family will assist and support you in making the move. If your immediate family will not support you, you may have friends or relatives who will.

There are also services available that may be able to provide assistance with moving, material goods, and food vouchers in your local area. Go to your local community or youth centre and see if they can help.