

Practice Hour

Housing Allowance Part Deux



Home
Stretch
WA

Date:

Thursday 30th March 2023

Name of Facilitators:

Ben Dancey & Andy Kazim

Acknowledgement of Country

**Home
Stretch**
WA



Ngaala kaaditj Noongar moort
Keyen kaadak nidja boodja

We respectfully acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we are presenting from today, and all the countries where people are located. We pay our respects to their strength, cultural resilience and the Elders past and present.

Housekeeping & Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement:

- Safe, secure, confidential space
- De-identify your examples (*including case managers & District offices*)
- Not supervision (*but can be arranged!*)

Teams Etiquette:

- Cameras on
- Mic on mute
- Raise your hand (*virtually or give us a wave!*)
- One person per camera is best



Is everyone ok with it being recorded?

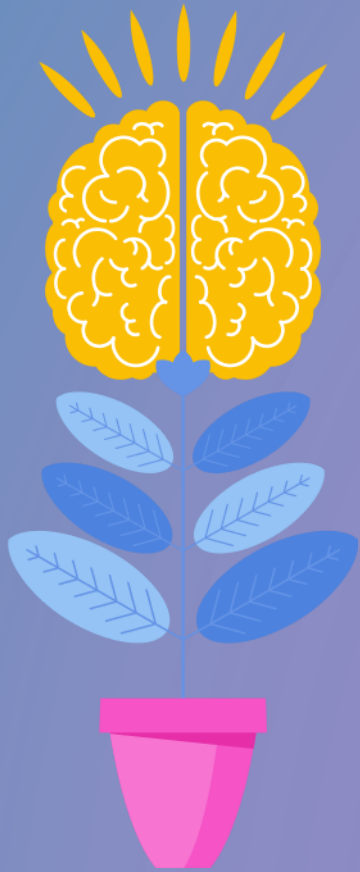
Who is here today?



In 1 minute or less

- What is your name?
- Which agency do you work with?
- What is your role?
- Which country are you tuning in from?

By the end of this session...



- Know how to complete part B of the Housing Allowance application
- The responsibilities of young people and payees of a Housing Allowance
- Why we need a Living Together Arrangement
- Strategies to help Identify and calculate the support costs

Recap: Housing Allowance

- Supporting a young person to access safe, stable and affordable accommodation options
- Teach young people to negotiate living arrangements
- Incentivise a broad range of housing options
- Young people must contribute to the arrangement
- Affordable housing is no more than 30% of income
- Housing Allowance agreements:
 - Minimum 3 months
 - Maximum 12 months



Recap: Housing Allowance

What are the key elements needed for a young person to apply for a Housing Allowance subsidy?



- Budget
- Housing Pathway Plan
- Safe, Stable & Affordable accommodation
- Time

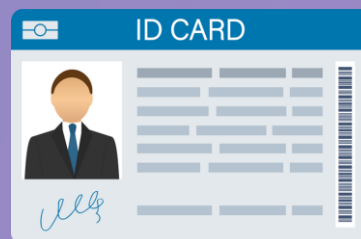


Overview of Part B



Part B

- Landlord details
- Payment details
- Proof of identity
- Signed declarations
- Responsibilities of the Landlord
- Responsibilities of the young person



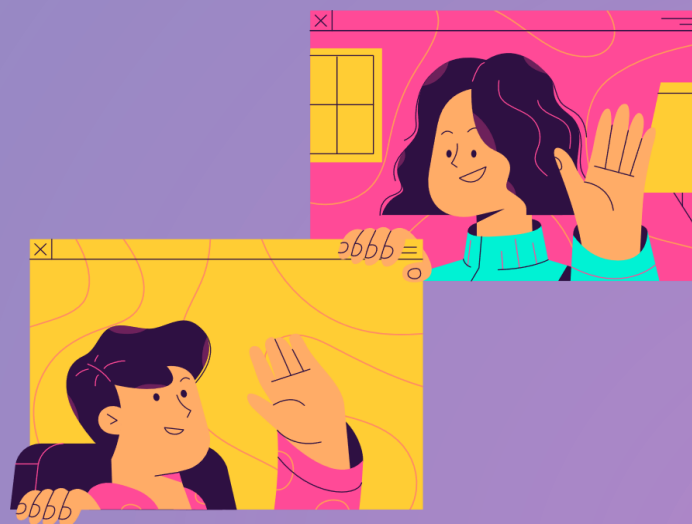
Landlord's Responsibilities

- Housing allowance should be declared to ATO and Services Australia (Centrelink).
- May impact any benefit they receive or their rent.
- Let Communities/Provider know if a young person intends to or leaves the living arrangement.
- Responsible for repayment of any money obtained by fraud, deception and overpayment.



Young Person's Responsibilities

- Stay engaged with their Transition Coach
- All costs and charges related to the property are the responsibility of the young person.



Reviewing Housing Allowance

- Initial 4 week check-in
- Living Arrangements need to be informally reviewed every 3 months.
- Home Stretch WA providers must respond to the Department every 3 months about whether the living arrangements are still safe, stable and affordable.
- A new application needs to be submitted every 12 months.



Living Together Arrangements

- Best used for family or highly supported living arrangements.
- Similar to a Staying On Agreement in concept but no not exempt from tax (yet)
- Creates tenure for the young person
- Can includes some payment towards supports accommodation and bills



Negotiating Support Costs

- Help the young person figure out how much they can contribute [Part A] and how supported the living arrangement might be.
- Young Person (with support) checks how much the living arrangement might cost
- Housing Allowance pays the balance between the cost of the arrangement and the young person's contribution.
- If the landlord/host family asks how much they can be paid, the Home Stretch Provider offers information about different levels of support and with examples.



How Supported is the Living Arrangement?



Approx Cost of Support in Living Arrangement (after rent is affordable)

Less Support



- You are living independently but sharing or living with others.
- You pay for most things yourself, but some costs are part of the deal.
- Everyone chips in for their fair share when it comes to bills, food and household tasks.
- People you live with are friendly. You help each other out but there are no expectations

**\$0
(some living costs/bills may be covered)**

Some Support

- You are living together with people who look out for you but respect your independence.
- Most living costs are usually shared or part of the deal.
- You get some help with getting around and dealing with things, but usually you deal with it by yourself or with your other supports.
- You take responsibility for your role and space in the living arrangement.



50% of remaining Housing Allowance

Lots of Support

- You are living with people who are there to help if you need it. They care for and look out for you.
- Most costs are covered through the living arrangement, you chip in to costs as much as you can.
- You have some responsibilities as part of the living arrangement.
- The people you are living with help you get to appointments and deal with whatever comes up or gets in the way.



100% of Remaining Housing Allowance

How Supported is the Living Arrangement?



Approx Cost of Support in Living Arrangement (after rent is affordable)

Less Support



- You are renting a room to a person.
- They pay for their own costs, and their share of the bills.
- Everyone chips in for their fair share when it comes to bills, food and household tasks.
- People you live with are friendly. You help each other out but there are no expectations.

**\$0
(some living costs/bills may be covered)**

Some Support

- You are living together with people who look out for each other but respect each other's independence.
- Most living costs are usually shared between everyone or part of the living arrangement.
- You provide some help to them to get around and deal with things, but usually they can deal with most things or have someone else who can help.
- They take responsibility for their role and space in the living arrangement.

50% of remaining Housing Allowance

Lots of Support

- Everyone in the house looks out for them. We all care about each other and provide them with support whenever they need it.
- Most costs are covered through the living arrangement, they chip in to costs as much as they can.
- They have some responsibilities as part of the living arrangement.
- We help them get to appointments and help deal with challenges when they come up.



100% of Remaining Housing Allowance

Household Expenses and the Cost of Living

**Monthly Household Spending Indicator – ABS Jan 2023*

Support/Option	Avg Weekly Per Person
Lodging (a private space in the home)	\$90
Food [regular meals with family]	\$100
Transport	\$20
Utilities	\$30
Recreation	\$20
Furnishings	\$20
Clothing	\$30
Communications	\$20

Why are we paying so much to these Living Arrangements?

Support Costs	Avg Cost for Support
Level 2 Support Worker [Life Skills/Transport/Informal Support]	\$30/hr For 2 hours of contact per day = \$420/week
Homeless Service - Crisis Not including rent	\$1 153 per week [based on yearly cost per bed]
Large Scale Transitional Housing Service Not including rent	\$520 per week [based on yearly cost]
Cost of Imprisoning an Adult in WA	\$2084 per week [based on yearly cost]
Cost of sharing your home with a young person who will leave dishes around, talk back to you, and persistently test boundaries	Priceless

Questions & Comments?



More Information & Resources

Links to Resources & Documents on the website

- [Housing Allowance - Flow Chart](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Training Slides](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Practice Guideline](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Fact Sheet - Young People](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Fact Sheet - Landlord](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Payment Application Form](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Living Together Agreement Template](#)
- [Housing Allowance - Budget Sheet Example](#)
- [Housing Pathway Plan - Discussion Guide & Check List](#)



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Contact Us

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