**Date:**

**Living Together Agreement**

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| **Explain what a Housing Agreement is and why it is important**   * Similar to a Boarding or Lodging Agreement but focused on supporting living arrangements that are more like a family home. * Sets out the rights and responsibilities of the living arrangement, and any house rules that may be in place. * Important to be clear about what is expected of each other and how everyone will overcome issues before they arise   **Use the ‘Setting Up a Housing Agreement Discussion Guide’ to fill out this agreement**  **Once completed, attach the agreement to the Housing Allowance Application Form** |
| What is working well? |
| Discuss what is going well in the current arrangement, this can be done separately or as a group using the Discussion Guide for different topic areas. |
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| What are the things that we would like to discuss? |
| Discuss what is important to the young person and others in the living arrangement and what could become an issue. You can use the Discussion Guide to come up with a list of topics to discuss. Write down the key issues for discussion that came up. |
| **Young Person**    **Landlord/Family** |

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| What are our plans to make it work? |
| Discuss each topic area that came up and what are your plans are to make it work. This may include a list of who is responsible for what or going through each topic area. Note here the non-negotiables, key house rules and expectations on the young person. |
| **Young Person**    **Landlord/Family** |

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| Finances – It can be difficult to talk about money, but to be eligible for a Housing Allowance, a young person must contribute to costs. How much does it cost for the young person to live in the arrangement? What costs and bills are included? |
| Explore things like food, and transport, and contributing and being part of family activities. What costs are not included? |
| How much will the young person pay? When will they pay? |
| How long will this arrangement be for? What happens if the young person wants to leave, or can’t continue to stay here for other reasons? |
| How much notice will be needed from the young person? How much notice will be needed from the Landlord/Head Tenant. If the young person leaves, will others still be able to maintain the Housing? |
|  |
| What do we do if we have any issues? |
| Discuss what each party is going to do: if they are not happy with the agreement; someone is not meeting their side of the agreement; and if there are any issues. This may need a discussion with other household members. |
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| How do we end the agreement? |
| List what the young person and carer or family members agree to should one person want to end the agreement; include how much notice is needed. |
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**Roles & Responsibilities**

**Landlord/Family**

* Provide a safe and stable living arrangement for the agreed period of time, and for the costs agreed.
* Support and encourage the young person with their transition to independence
* Discuss any issues or concerns directly and respectfully with the young person
* Review the agreement with the young person if it needs to be amended
* Contact Home Stretch WA to discuss any living arrangement issues or concerns
* Participate in living arrangement reviews with Home Stretch WA
* Notify Home Stretch WA as soon as the young person leaves the living arrangement,   
  to avoid liability for overpayment

**Young Person**

* Meet with the Home Stretch WA Transition Coach as agreed, to work towards   
  agreed goals and transition to independence
* Contribute to costs of the living arrangement as agreed.
* Discuss any living arrangement issues or concerns with the landlord/family.
* Contact Home Stretch WA to discuss any living arrangement issues or concerns
* Participate in living arrangement reviews with Home Stretch WA
* Notify Home Stretch WA if no longer in the living arrangement

**Home Stretch WA Transition Coach**

* Support the young person to explore their goals and aspirations, develop a housing pathway plan and assist with transition to independence
* Support the young person to create an agreement with the landlord/family.
* Support the young person to keep their side of the agreement, and deal with any challenges that arise.

**Optional - Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator**

* Support the landlord/family to develop the Agreement,and understand their responsibilities.
* Support the landlord/family with the living arrangement including access to resources and specialised supports
* Facilitate and organise reviews of the Agreement as required

**Department of Communities**

* Payment of the Housing Allowance through the Department of Communities Subsidy Processing Unit

We (young adult’s name) and (carer/s or family member) agree to continue the ‘Living Together Agreement’.

**Agreement**

* We understand the living arrangement is voluntary and until the young adult turns 21
* We agree to respect each other and follow any agreed ‘house rules’
* We are going to review the Agreement should things change and if any   
  areas need to be amended
* The Agreement is going to be reviewed on (4 weeks from agreement date), then reviewed every 3 months or as agreed
* We agree to an annual review of the Agreement
* We agree to give the each other weeks' notice to end the Agreement
* We agree to contact Home Stretch WA and the Department of Communities if this agreement is not working and/or the young person moves out of the living arrangement



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| Young Adult & Carer/s Signatures | Date |
| Name:  Signature: |  |
| Name:  Signature: |  |
| Name:  Signature: |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Actions for follow up | Who | Date |
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