



# Pride Housing Handbook

# Publication Information

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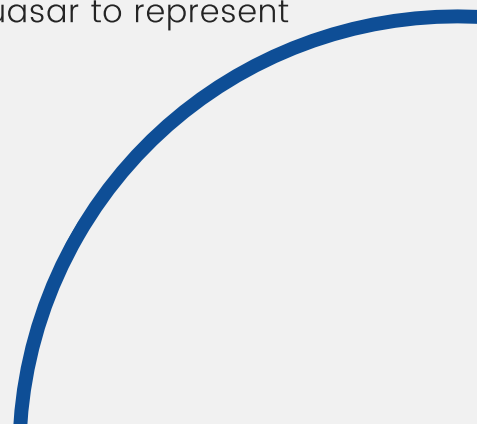
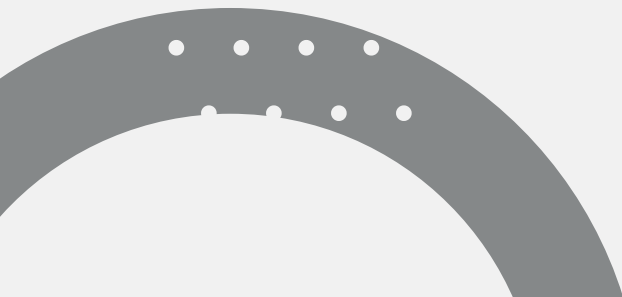
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# Publication Information

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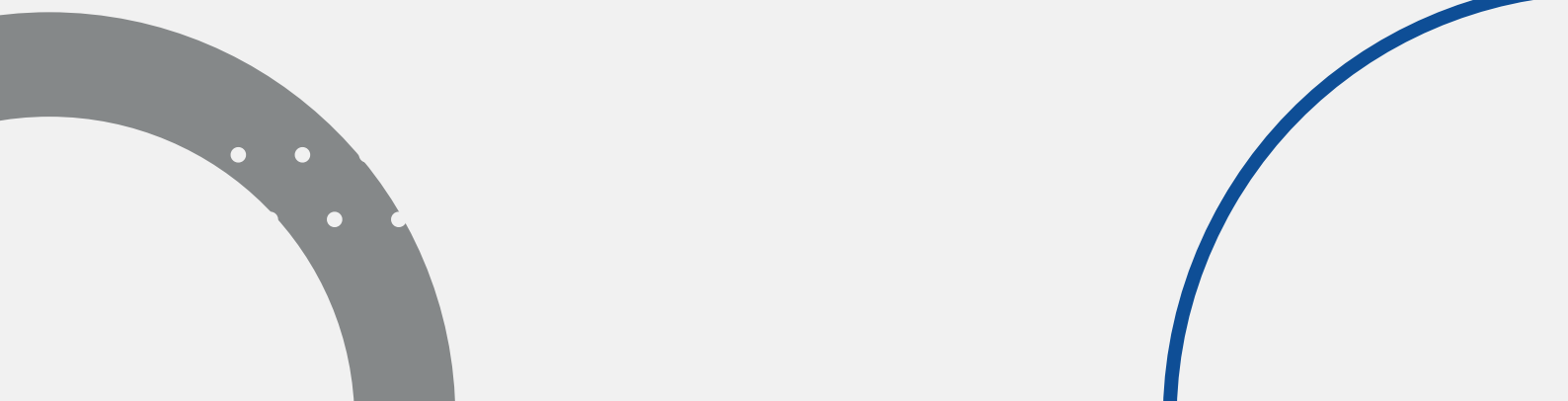
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GRAI, formed in 2005, advocates for LGBTI elders, providing LGBTI-inclusive aged care training, social support, and research. They combat isolation through programs like the Village Hub and Befriending Service. GRAI's research on aged care attitudes and community needs informs law reform, training, and services for older LGBTI individuals in Australia.

The Intergenerational Pride Housing Project aims to simultaneously tackle accommodation challenges faced by LGBTIQA+ students and reduce social isolation and financial strain among older LGBTIQA+ individuals by pairing them to create safe, mutually beneficial housing arrangements. GRAI will work to understand the needs of both parties and make tailored housing matches.

# About

# GRAI



# Pride Housing

## Project

## Benefits and Considerations

### Benefits

The Intergenerational Pride Housing project hopes to be mutually beneficial for both LGBTIQ+ students and older (50+) LGBTI+ people. Such benefits include:

- Securing safe and affordable housing for LGBTIQ+ students who may find difficulty securing housing due to discrimination.
- Reduce social isolation for older (50+) LGBTI+ people.
- Reduce financial strain for older (50+) LGBTI+ people and keep them in their homes longer.
- Build intergenerational community connection within the LGBTIQ+ community.

### Considerations

The Intergenerational Pride Housing Project is designed to benefit all participants, but it's important to consider whether it's the right choice for you. If you are an older (50+) LGBTI+ individual receiving financial support—such as a pension, disability support, or payments from Services Australia (Centrelink)—having a boarder or lodger in your home may affect these payments. Please reach out to your financial support provider to understand any potential impacts.

Likewise, if you are a student receiving financial support, contact your provider to determine how living as a boarder or lodger may affect your payments.

Additionally, if you have insurance for your property or belongings, please consult your insurer to confirm how a boarder or lodger living arrangement might impact your coverage.

# Step 1

## Expression of Interest

LGBTIQA+ students who are seeking accommodation and older (50+) LGBTI+ people who have a spare room express interest in the project by calling or emailing the Pride Housing Coordinator at 0416 617 468 or [pridehousing@grai.org.au](mailto:pridehousing@grai.org.au).

Alternatively, interested people can fill in an online expression of interest form using the QR code below.



# Pride Housing Steps

## Step 2

### Making Contact & Preferences

The Pride Housing Coordinator will contact individuals who have expressed interest in the project. Interested individuals will be provided with a preferences questionnaire to identify specific needs and concerns regarding a housing match and agreement. If preferred, the Pride Housing Coordinator can arrange to meet with the individual in person to talk through the project as well as any questions and concerns.







## Step 3

### Suitability & Police Clearance

Once the preferences questionnaire has been completed, the Pride Housing Coordinator will review the details of the interested person participant to see if the project is suitable to their situation. The Pride Housing Coordinator will then request a Police Clearance. The price of the Police Clearance will be covered by GRAI.

## Step 4

### Matching & Meeting

After a police clearance has been returned, the Pride Housing Coordinator will begin searching for a suitable housing match.

If the Pride Housing Coordinator has not yet met with the participant, a time will be arranged to meet up in person to go over any final details. Meeting in person allows the Pride Housing Coordinator and participant to build a better connection and understanding of the participants needs and preferences so a suitable match can be identified.

If a suitable match is found, the Pride Housing Coordinator may arrange for both parties to meet in person. This may involve both parties meeting for an informal catch-up to assess the viability of the match. It may also involve the student viewing the accommodation to see if it will meet their needs.

## Step 5

### Documentation

If a successful match is made, both parties will receive some information and documents to review before entering into an official agreement. These will include:

- This induction booklet
- A property condition report template
- A template for Boarder and Lodger agreements



Once the property condition report and boarders and lodgers agreement has been filled in by the homeowner, they will be supplied to the student to review and sign. The Property condition report should be returned by the student to the homeowner within 7 days of starting a living arrangement. Some participants may use a residential tenancy agreement which has have different documents, Participants can contact the Pride Housing Coordinator for further clarification

## Step 6

### Ongoing Support and Check-ins

After a housing match is made, each party has signed and returned the relevant documents and participants begin living together, the Pride Housing Coordinator will offer ongoing support. This will include reaching out to each of the housing participants after 2 weeks of living together to see how each person is going. The Pride Housing Coordinator can arrange a meeting between the homeowner and student if a group discussion is beneficial. Participants can continue to contact the Pride Housing Coordinator through out their housing arrangement for support. If any issues arise the Pride Housing Coordinator can be a part of a discussion between homeowner and student to help resolve the issue, if required.

## Step 7

### End of housing agreement

At the end of a housing arrangement, both parties will be encouraged to complete a property condition report to document the state of the property at the end of the living agreement. The keys to the property will be returned to the home owner and the bond returned to the boarder/lodger if required.



# Evaluation



The Pride Housing Project is the first of its kind in Australia and it is important to gain feedback from participants. It is valuable to know what is working well, what could be improved and how much impact the project is having.

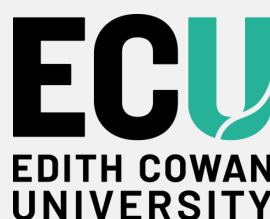
## Consent and Confidentiality

The evaluation is completely voluntary, and people won't be excluded from the Pride Housing Project if they do not participate in the evaluation. If people do participate in the evaluation process, the feedback given will be kept confidential. The Pride Housing Coordinator and GRAI will not know who participates in the evaluation.

## Evaluation partners and process

When expressing interest in the Pride Housing Project, people can select 'Yes/No' when asked if they consent to being contacted by the evaluation team. If 'yes' is selected the person's contact details will be passed on to the evaluation team who operate through Edith Cowan University, partnered with Social Ageing (SAGE) Future Lab and Rainbow Migrants.

The evaluation will take around 30 - 45 minutes and may involve completing a survey before, during and after the housing arrangement as well as an interview to hear participant thoughts on the project.



The evaluation team are practised experts in the safe collection and storage of confidential data. This project has ethics approval through the Edith Cowan University Human Research Ethics Committee.

# House Sharing

## Tips for success

### Respect

#### Respect Privacy and Boundaries

Respect your housemates' personal space, belongings, and privacy. Avoid using their things without permission, and be considerate of how your actions—like playing loud music or having frequent guests—might affect others. Respect breeds a peaceful living environment.

### Shared Expenses Fund

#### Shared Expenses and a Household Fund

Consider setting up a shared household fund (or "kitty") where everyone contributes equally to cover common expenses like milk, coffee, cleaning supplies, or bills. Make sure everyone is clear on how much to contribute and keep the funds secure.

### Division of Chores

Household chores are often the biggest source of tension in shared living spaces. To avoid conflicts, create a chore roster or schedule so everyone contributes to keeping communal areas clean. Assign responsibilities like vacuuming, taking out the trash, and cleaning bathrooms. Consider the strengths and abilities of all involved and find a chores/cleaning agreement that works for you.

# House Sharing

## Tips for success

### Division of Bills

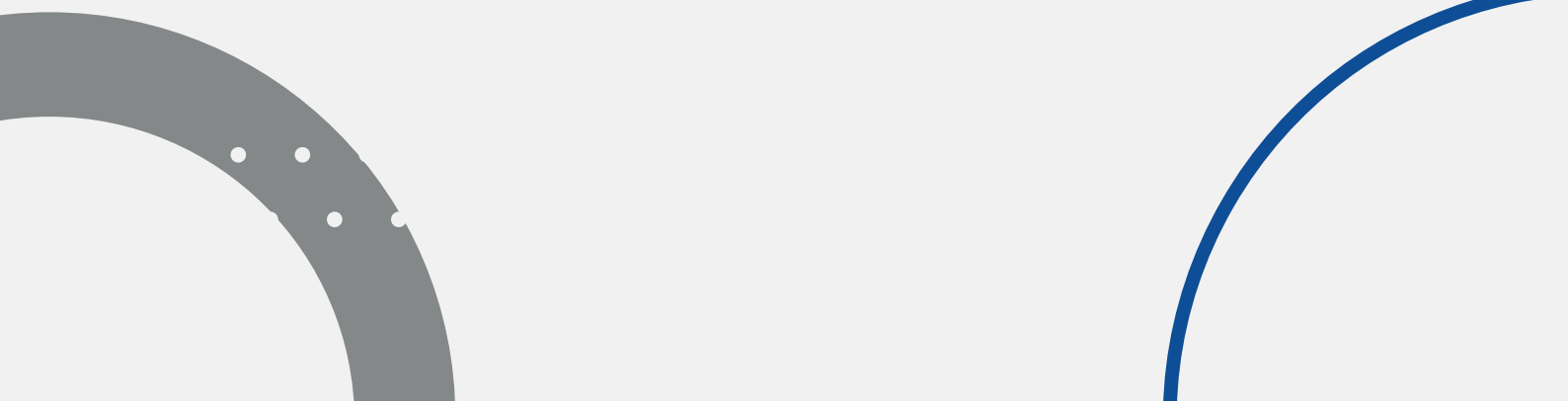
Discuss how you would like to split the cost of bills and amenities like the electricity, internet, gas and water. Document this agreement in writing and respect the division of bills.

### Food Fairness

Decide whether you'll share food or keep your own. If you opt for individual food supplies, establish designated storage areas for each person's groceries. And if you use something that belongs to a housemate, replace it promptly or inform them in advance.

### Communal Areas

Establish ground rules for communal areas like the kitchen, living room, and bathroom. Everyone should clean up after themselves and avoid leaving personal items lying around. Setting expectations for guest visits and parties also helps ensure communal areas are respected.

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# House Sharing

## Tips for success

### Communication

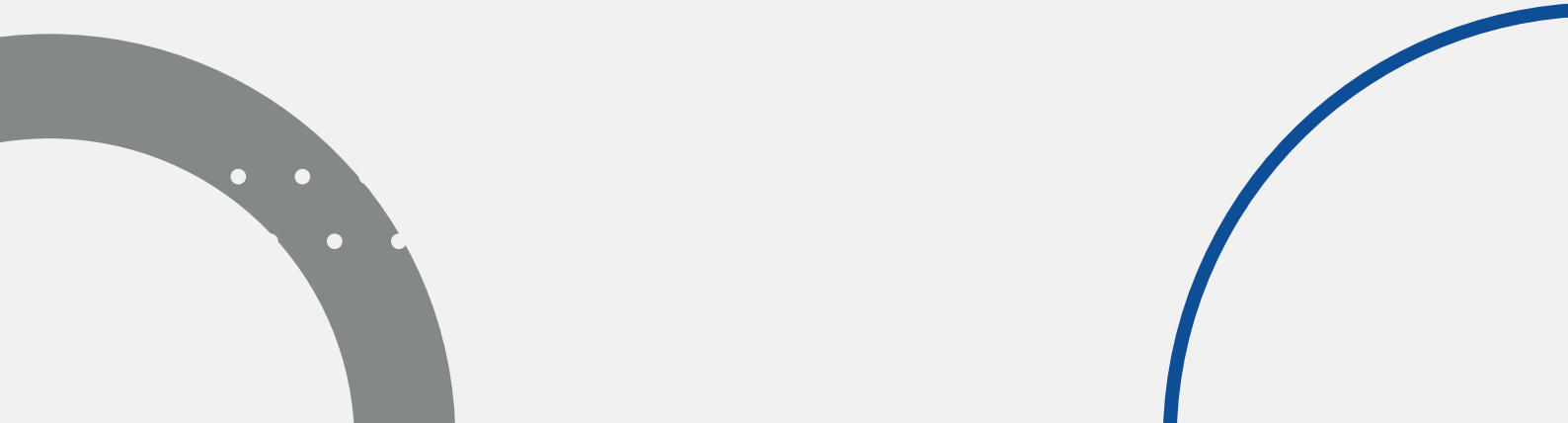
Before moving in together, have an honest discussion about your routines and lifestyles. Aligning your expectations early—such as sleep schedules, socializing preferences, or cleaning habits—can help avoid potential clashes down the road.

### Connection

Ongoing connection is essential. If issues arise, address them calmly and quickly. Additionally, building house traditions, like weekly shared dinners or movie nights, can strengthen relationships and create a sense of community within the house.

### Conflict

If you experience conflict, it is important to remain respectful and communicate clearly. Please see the dispute resolution guide included for some helpful tips on how to manage conflict if it arises



# Dispute Resolution Guide

## For boarders and lodgers

Living together can be rewarding, but disagreements sometimes arise. This guide offers simple steps to help boarders and lodgers resolve conflicts within shared living spaces. Keep in mind, boarder and lodger agreements are protected under Consumer Protection and not by the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA).

### General tips:

#### Know your agreement type and rights

Understand what type of arrangement you have (e.g., boarder or lodger) and what rights and responsibilities come with it. Boarders and lodgers have some protections under Consumer Protection laws but are not covered by the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA).

#### Keep records

Ensure that you carefully read all documents used in the agreement and keep a copy. These may be referred to if a disagreement occurs.

### GRAI Disclaimer

Please note that GRAI provides general information in this guide but does not offer legal advice. If you need legal information, consider seeking professional legal support.

# Dispute resolution guide

## Managing Conflict

### Address the issue directly

#### Step 1: Talk to the other person.

If a conflict occurs, try having an open, respectful conversation. Approach the talk with the goal of understanding each other's point of view and finding a solution. Consider the following tips for effective communication:

- Prepare key points and know your goal.
- Choose a good time to talk.
- Listen actively, and focus on the issue rather than the person.

#### Step 2: Seek mediation support.

If you can't reach a solution on your own, mediation This involves a neutral third party helping you and the other person talk things through. GRAI may be able to provide informal mediation; contact us at [pridehousing@grai.org.au](mailto:pridehousing@grai.org.au) or 0416 617 468. You can also contact external mediation services or legal advice providers if needed.

#### Step 3: Seek legal information and advice.

If talking and mediation don't resolve the conflict, it may be helpful to speak with a community legal service or seek legal information/advice.



# Useful Legal Contacts

## Circle Green Community Legal:

Phone: (08) 6148 3636

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday – Friday

Address:

Ground Floor

445 Hay Street

PERTH 6000

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Monday – Friday

Website: <https://circlegreen.org.au/>

Please note that Circle Green Community Legal can only support tenants, boarders and or lodgers. Homeowners are encouraged to use other contacts.

## Legal Aid WA:

Phone:

Infoline: 1300 650 579

9:00am – 4:00pm, Monday – Friday

Legal Yarm (for First Nations callers): 1800 319 803

9:00am – 4:00pm, Monday – Friday

Website: <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au/>

## Community Legal WA:

To find a community legal center near you, visit Community Legal WA, the peak body for community legal centers in Western Australia.

Website: <https://communitylegalwa.org.au/>

## Rainbow Legal:

Rainbow Legal provides legal support to LGBTIQ+ individuals on a range of issues.

Phone: (08) 6253 9500

Email: [sscls@sscls.asn.au](mailto:sscls@sscls.asn.au)

## Consumer Protection:

Consumer Protection represent the rights of individuals under Australian Consumer Law, which covers boarder and lodger agreements. To find out more, you can visit <https://www.consumerprotection.wa.gov.au/> or contact [consumer@demirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:consumer@demirs.wa.gov.au), or call 1300 304 054.



# Supporting Each other & ourselves



Sometimes the people we live with need some extra support. While it is ok to be there for someone when they are having a hard time, it is important to remember our boundaries and take care of ourselves as well. Below are some supports you can use or recommend to your house partner if they are having a hard time.

In case of emergencies, please contact '000'.

## Mental Health

- Mental Health Emergency Response Line: 1300 555 788 (Metro), 1800 676 822 (Peel) or 1800 552 002 (Country/Rurallink)
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- 13 Yarn: (for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crisis support line) 13 92 76
- Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
- Men's Line Australia: 1300 789 978
- Q-Life (LGBTI Support line from 3pm - 11pm) 1800 184 527

# Supporting Each other & ourselves



## Older Australians

- GRAI (GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc): email: [info@grai.org.au](mailto:info@grai.org.au), Website: <https://grai.org.au/>
- Advocare: The state peak body for supporting the rights of older people: General Phone: 08 9479 7566, Freecall: 1800 655 566, WA Elder Abuse Helpline: 1300 724 679
- Services Australia/Centrelink – Older Australian's Line 132 300

## Students



For study related support or concerns, students are encouraged to inquire about services available through their educational institution, such as their university or TAFE. If a student is having an issue with their educational institute, they may be able to access support through relevant Guild organisations, which operate independently of the university. Universities often run support services for LGBTIQA+ students and international students.