

CHECKLIST BEFORE MOVING

Don't stress. Everything can be talked through.

Prioritise. Think about yourself and your family. What are your major concerns? Is it schools, work, transport, medical needs, pets, etc?

Be practical. Dreaming of a mansion on the Gold Coast won't make you happy. Having a home (as opposed to a house) that meets your needs and where friends and family are welcome. Don't compare what others are offered. Offers are based on what is available at the time of relocation that meets your needs.

Where to? Think about the area you would like to move to. Are the schools good for your kids? Does local transport meet your needs? Is there a medical centre or a doctor's surgery? What about a local vet? Do you have family or friends there? Give some thought to the things you do where you live now, such as walking the dog

Relax. Don't stress. Moving is a difficult thing even if you want to. You have to pack up a whole house, disconnect electricity, phone, etc and reconnect at your new home, get rid of rubbish or things you cannot take with you.

Keep lists. Don't rely on your memory. Think about everything you want to discuss about your relocation i.e. things that concern you. Write them down as you think of them so you can discuss it in your relocation interview.

Change of Address. Put in a redirection of mail. This can be done at the local post office. If you are moved by Housing NSW, they will cover the first three months. It is a good idea to renew your redirection yourself. Don't forget to cover the first Christmas in your new location or you may not get your cards. Keep a list of all the people and organisations that will need your new address (refer to separate check list)

Your interview. If you are being moved by your housing provider, will have an interview with the Relocation Officer to assess your needs. It is recommended you have someone with you that you trust. You will be asked about private and sensitive issues in your life so be sure you are okay with the person knowing. Between your interview and being given an offer keep talking to the Relocation Officer *especially* if your circumstances change.

Cleanup. As soon as you know you are moving start thinking about what you cannot or do not want to take with you. Organise a council cleanup, sell or donate furniture to a charity. The more you do earlier makes it much easier when you actually do move. **Don't leave it until the last minute.**

Support. Moving is an emotional time in our life. Don't underestimate the emotional impact on yourself and your family. Everyone including children need to say how they feel. If you live alone, make sure you have people to physically help you. If you have concerns then please talk to your Relocation Officer.

Your health. Remember your health is a priority throughout this process. Don't let it get you down. The relocation team is only too willing to help.

REMEMBER TO KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN

BEFORE YOU MOVE

- 1. Identify your major concerns.
- 2. Choose an area where you want to move to (or stay).
- 3. Write a list of things to discuss with the Relocation Officer.
- 4. Start cleaning up and getting rid of things you can't take with you.
- 5. Start packing things you don't use. Label boxes with what is in them and what room they will go into at the new property.
- 6. Choose someone you trust to be with you for the interview process.
- 7. Discuss the move with your family. Let *everyone* speak about how they feel.
- 8. Make a list of everyone who will need to know your change of address.
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ACCEPTING A PROPERTY

BEFORE YOU ACCEPT A PROPERTY

- 1. Make sure the property is acceptable to your needs.
- 2. Visit the property. Check out the shops and transport. Measure to make sure your furniture will fit - fridge, freezer, bed, washing machine, cupboards, lounge, dining table, computer, out door furniture.
- 3. If you have any concerns talk to your Relocation Officer or your Client Service Officer.

AFTER YOU ACCEPT A PROPERTY.

- 1. Ensure the address and postcode is correct.
- 2. Contact your electricity/gas supplier, phone company, Foxtel with your moving date and ensure that all are connected for you to move into the new property.
- 3. Do a redirection of mail.
- 4. Contact Council for the last cleanup and **tell them** you are moving.
- 5. Do you have people to help you if you need them?
- 6. Ensure nothing is left in your old property.
- 7. Have someone at your new property to direct the removalists and have someone at your old property to ensure nothing is forgotten.
- 8. When packing put your kettle, tea, coffee etc in a separate box that is clearly labelled so you can have a cuppa if you need one. Don't forget food if you need to eat regularly as part of a health program.
- 9. One of the first things to do in your new home is make sure you have someone set up your bed.
- 10. Rest. Don't do yourself an injury trying to unpack. It can take many months to finally put everything away in your new home.
- 11. Make the new property your home.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Family, friends
- Centrelink
- Bank
- Doctors (GP, specialists, optometrists)
- Health care provider (private health fund, Medicare,)
- Community health centre (home health care, community nurse, meals on wheels)
- RTA (drivers licence, registration)
- Car insurance, NRMA, green slip
- Where you volunteer, Work For The Dole
- Local clubs if you are a member
- National Seniors
- Library, book club
- Paid tv, movies - Foxtel, Stan, Quickflix, etc
- Store cards (loyalty, store credit card, flybuys)
- People who mow your lawn, cleaners
- Electoral roll
- Ebay or internet companies you buy from that you have an account with.
- Local Council, veterinarian (if you have pets)
- Schools, Tafe, places where you are doing a course (adults and children)
- Companies where you buy from their catalogue – Avon, Penny Miller, Home Care, etc
- Sporting groups, football, cricket, netball, Little Athletics, martial arts
- Insurance companies