

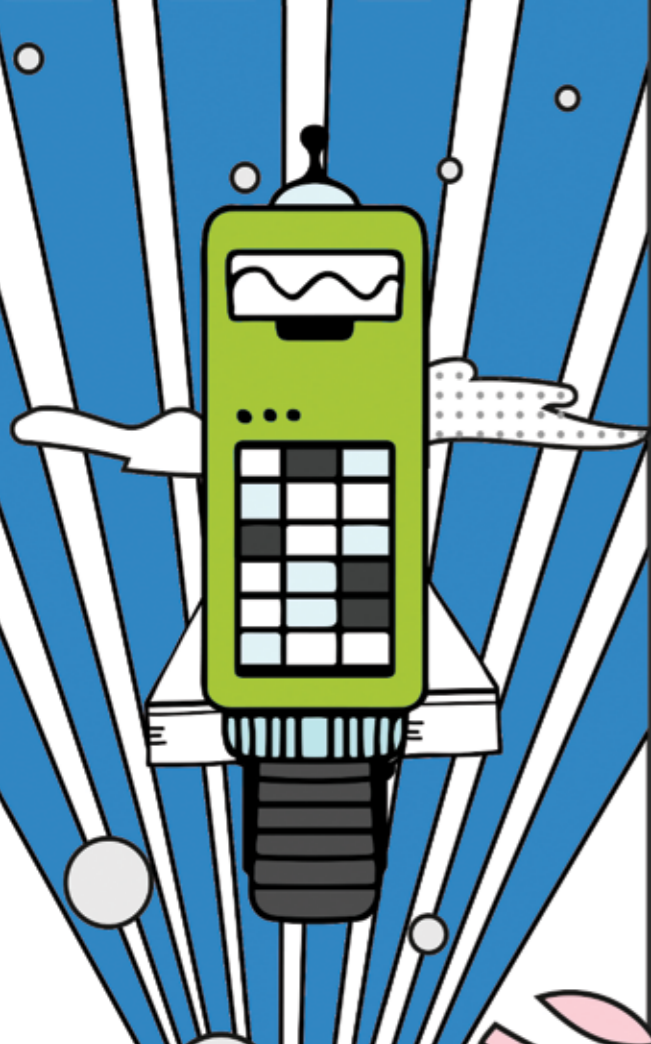
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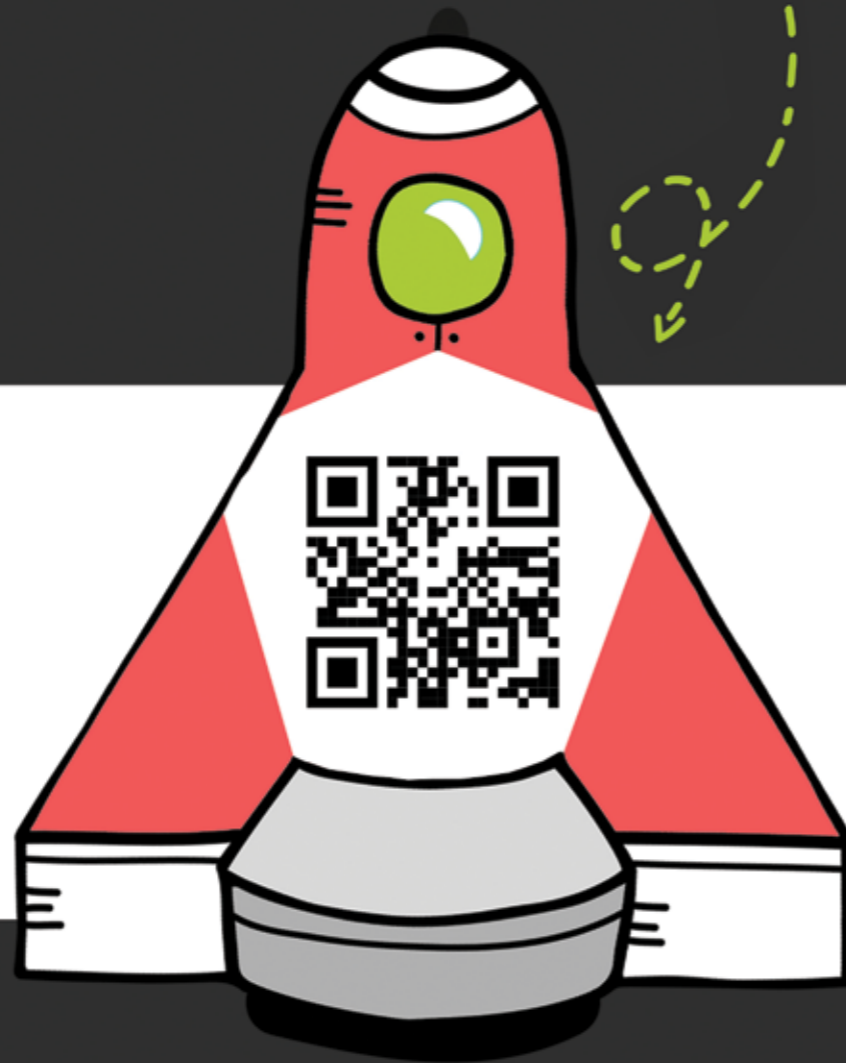
## Healthy Mind & Body



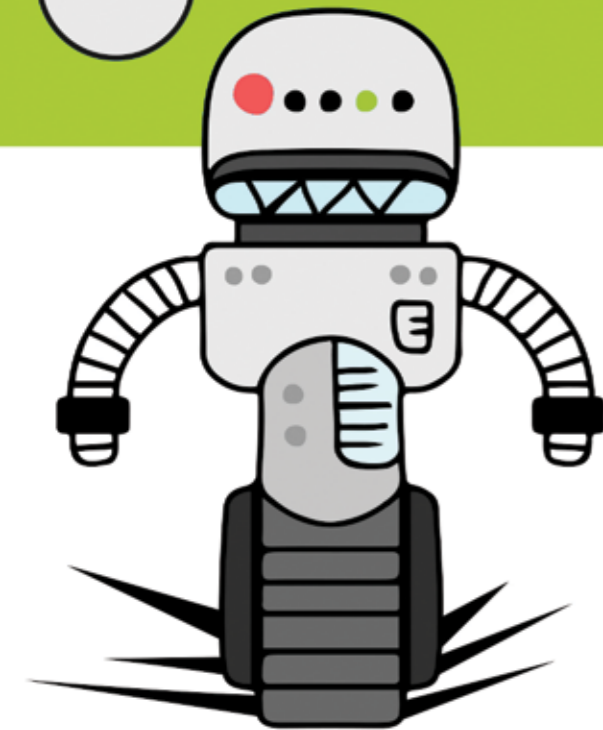
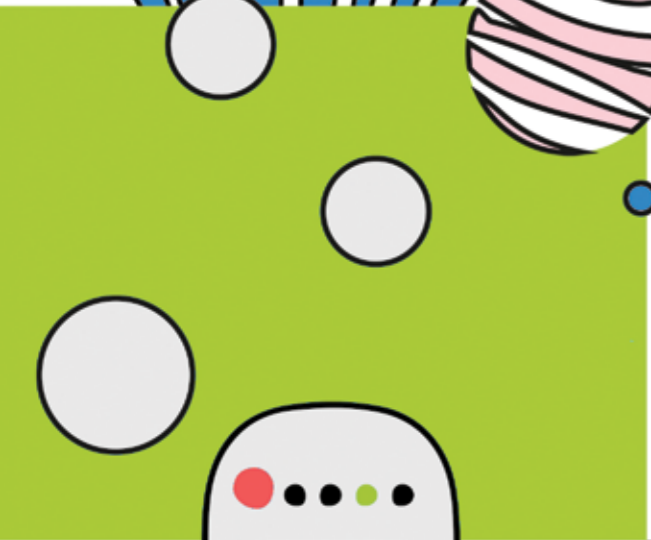


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# Working together

**Mateship is an Australian cultural idiom that embodies equality, loyalty and friendship.**

**Russel Ward, in *The Australian Legend* (1958, aka “Legend”), saw the concept as one that is central to the ethos and character of Australian people.**

**Mateship derives from mate, meaning friend, commonly used in Australia as an amicable form of address.**

## A message from NHTWA Chair, Bernie Durkin

Welcome to the latest edition of the Streetsmart Handbook!

The Streetsmart Handbook is a practical resource developed to support young people as they transition to adulthood.

Neighbourhood Watch Australasia (NHTWA) knows that the journey to becoming an adult is not the same for everyone, and that there are many different roads that each person can take, either by choice or by circumstance. Though the chosen paths may not be the same for everyone, the signposts along the way are.

The Streetsmart Handbook provides a state-by-state guide to many of the signposts and directions needed to be accessed along the way, to assist young people as they navigate a safe passage along the often rocky road to becoming an adult.

Just as the paths taken to adulthood can be different, so too are the people you will meet and interact with along the way. These people may be peers, friends, neighbours, strangers, family, and, of course, mates; these people are all part of your community.

NHTWA is all about community, with people of all ages working together and with community partners, including the police, to create safe, interconnected, inclusive and cared for communities for all. Communities that are based upon the underlying values of Australian mateship.

Mates look out for each other, and that is what NHTWA does. The StreetSmart Handbook is an extension of NHTWA's offer of mateship, a helping hand, extended to assist with finding answers to questions, providing practical information, making good decisions, and demonstrating ways to stay safe as you become an adult in your community.

If you would like more information please visit our website: [www.nhtwa.com.au](http://www.nhtwa.com.au)



**Bernie Durkin**

Chair  
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia

**Bringing people together to create safe, connected, and inclusive communities, where people feel empowered, informed, protected, and engaged with one another, and with their local police.**



Australia values freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of religion (including the freedom not to follow a particular religion). Everyone in Australia has the right to express their opinions and beliefs openly. Different or even radical ideas and the discussion they promote are important to maintaining a healthy, liberal democracy. However, it becomes a significant concern to everybody, including families, communities and law enforcement, if a person begins to advocate or use violence to achieve a political, religious or ideological goal. This is the difference between lawful and potentially unlawful conduct.

### What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation is when a person's beliefs move from being relatively "typical" to being "radical", meaning they seek a drastic change in society. This is not necessarily a bad thing and does not mean these people will become violent. However, once these beliefs start to include support for violence as a way to achieve a goal or change, that person has moved down the pathway to violent extremism.

Violent extremists are people or groups who support the use of fear, terror and violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals.

### The signs – what should I look for?

Recruitment into violent extremist groups may occur in person or online. Using the internet to view, download and spread violent extremist material can also be part of the radicalisation process. Often it is friends or family that first notice behavioural changes that indicate a person might be on a pathway to violent extremism. It is important to remember that each person is unique and there are no simple answers for how someone radicalises towards violent extremism. There is no rule book, no single path. However, there are usually some signs that we can all look out for:

### Changes in belief or development of a strong sense of grievance

- The adoption of new beliefs that have become increasingly extreme.
- Lower tolerance of other points of view, and hostility to those who disagree with them.
- The expression of deep-seated grievances against the government or hatred toward specific groups of people.

### Behavioural and social changes

- A person on a pathway towards radicalisation will often pull away from their usual activities and friendship groups. They may also start associating exclusively with a new group of people.

### Changes in online activity

- Increased online activity – spending long periods online looking at statements or posts made on social media, articles, images, speeches or videos that encourage hate or violence.

### What is the Government doing to help?

The Australian Government's *Living Safe Together* Intervention Program is a voluntary program run in every state and territory that provides support to people who are at risk of radicalising, or have already radicalised to violent extremism. *Living Safe Together* provides tailored services to support individuals to reconnect with family, friends and local community in a more positive way. Further information about *Living Safe Together* and other support is available at [www.livingsafetogether.gov.au](http://www.livingsafetogether.gov.au).

To find out what you can do about violent and hateful online materials visit the eSafety Commissioner's website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/violent-inappropriate-content> and <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/online-hate>.

### How can I help?

If you are worried that a person you know is becoming, or has already become, radicalised to violent extremism it is important that you tell someone. This is the best way you can help them and help keep our community safe. Information about how to seek help can be found on the *Seek Help and Report* page *Living Safe Together* website ([Seek help and report \(livingsafetogether.gov.au\)](http://www.livingsafetogether.gov.au)).

# A message from AFP Assistant Commissioner Lesla Gale

As the Australian Federal Police Assistant Commissioner responsible for the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, it's my job to highlight to you the importance of protecting yourself and where to get help if something goes wrong both in the online and real world. I recommend to you the *Streetsmart Handbook* which does just that. It contains answers to your many questions about being part of a safe, healthy and connected community. It will point you in the right direction of how to access government and other services that can provide advice and support and empower you through your teenage years into adulthood.

As you choose your own path – keep this book nearby so you are informed with all the important tools you will need at your fingertips. The decisions you make now will impact you for the rest of your life. We all make mistakes – it's how we recover from those mistakes that's important. The *Streetsmart Handbook* will help you make fewer mistakes and guide you through how you recover from the mistakes you do make.

Issues like cyberbullying, image-based abuse, or sextortion can happen to people of all age groups, and it can happen to you. The *Streetsmart Handbook* can help with what to do if this happens to you. We know technology and the internet are an important part of our everyday lives. Whether you are using technology as part of your studies or on a social basis, being digitally *Streetsmart* means you will know what to do to stay safe online.

This *Streetsmart Handbook* has been developed to guide you over the coming years and contains information to answer some of your questions and to point you toward sources of additional support as you seek to maintain a healthy mind, body and relationships.

Good luck! I wish you all the very best.

### Lesla Gale

AFP Assistant Commissioner Northern Command  
Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation



**Lesla Gale**

AFP Assistant Commissioner  
Northern Command  
Australian Centre to Counter  
Child Exploitation



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## A special thank you to our valued Patrons of the Streetsmart Handbook



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Commissioner for Children and Young  
People (SA)



**Colleen Gwynne**  
Children's Commissioner (NT)



**Jacqueline McGowan-Jones**  
Commissioner for Children  
and Young People (WA)



**Luke Twyford**  
Queensland Family & Child Commission  
Principal Commissioner

Read their forewords at  
<https://smarthandbooks.com.au/forewords/>

# Healthy Mind



**14** Top tips for a healthy headspace

**20** Bullying

**26** Problems with mental health

# Healthy Body



**42** Eating well

**57** Let's get physical

**60** Sleeping well

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Across Australia, many secondary school students will be looking forward to resetting and refocussing in 2022 after 2021 served up a second consecutive year of uncertainty and disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This first edition of Streetsmart covers topics aimed at keeping your mind and body healthy, giving you the tools to recognise when things might be going pear-shaped, and helping you to build good habits.





# Healthy Mind

Good mental health is about being able to work and study to your full potential, cope with day-to-day life stresses, be involved in your community, and live your life in a free and satisfying way.

A person who has good mental health has good emotional and social wellbeing and the capacity to cope with change and challenges.

Content for this section is courtesy of



For more information, to find your nearest headspace centre or for online and telephone support, visit [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au)





# Top tips for a healthy headspace

Your mental health is extremely important and there are a number of steps you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing every day.

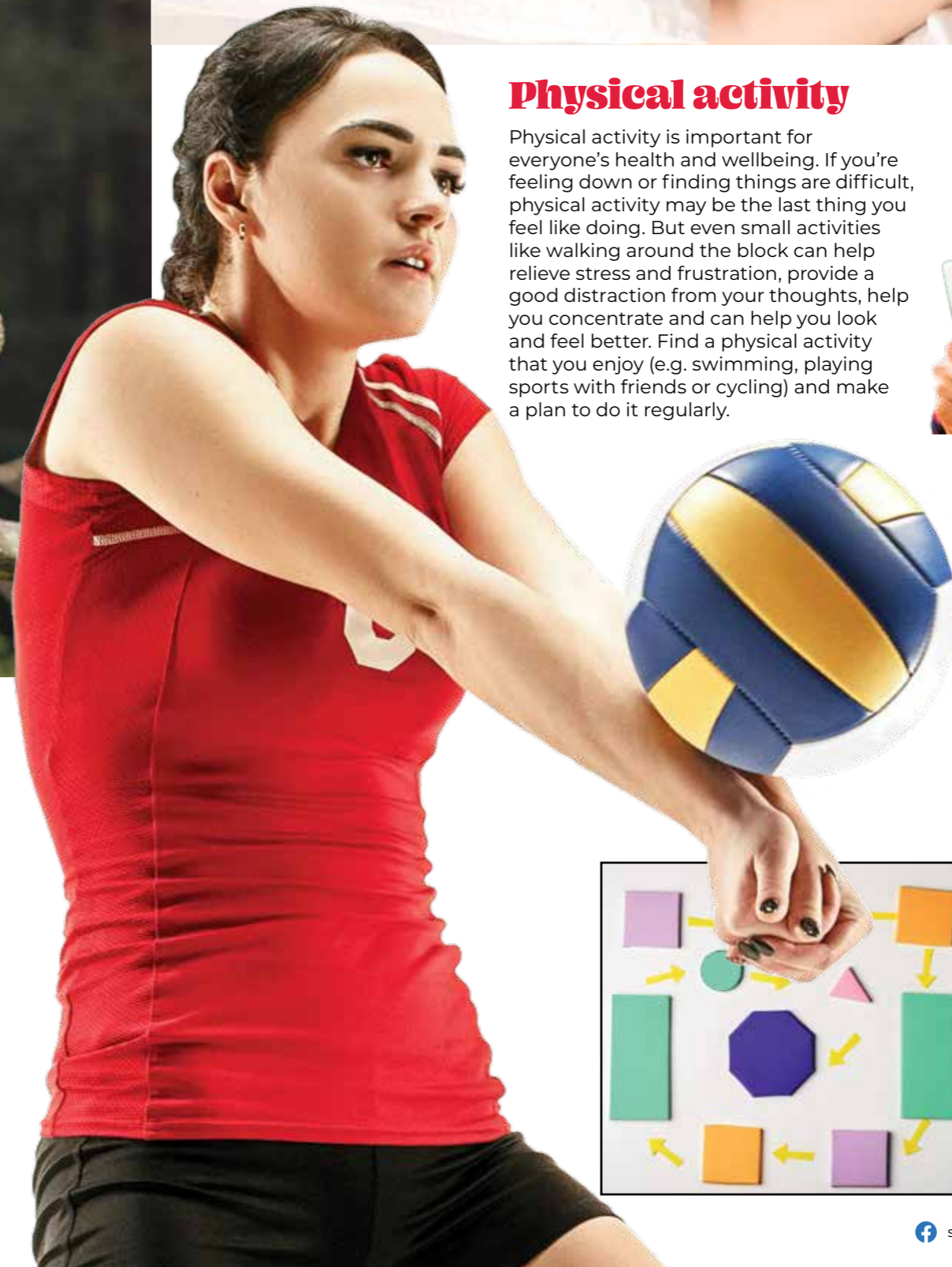
## Sleep well

Getting a good night's sleep helps you feel energised, focused and motivated. Adolescence is a time when a number of changes to the 'body clock' impact on sleeping patterns and you are more likely to have problems with sleep. Developing a sleeping routine can help you sleep much better. To do this try to wake up around the same time each day, get out of bed when you wake up, and go to bed around the same time each night. Avoiding caffeine after lunchtime, having a quiet, dark and uncluttered bedroom and shutting down your phone, laptop and other electronic devices before bed can also help you get a good night's sleep.



## Physical activity

Physical activity is important for everyone's health and wellbeing. If you're feeling down or finding things are difficult, physical activity may be the last thing you feel like doing. But even small activities like walking around the block can help relieve stress and frustration, provide a good distraction from your thoughts, help you concentrate and can help you look and feel better. Find a physical activity that you enjoy (e.g. swimming, playing sports with friends or cycling) and make a plan to do it regularly.



## Get informed

Understanding more about what you're going through is an important first step. Information to help you make good decisions about relationships, school, finances and seeking help is available in a number of ways. Read pamphlets, articles or fact sheets, listen to podcasts, talk to or watch videos about others who have had similar experiences, read trusted websites for information, or ask a trusted adult for advice.



## Build strategies

We all have coping strategies – some good, some not so good (e.g. using drugs and alcohol). There are various positive coping strategies you can try: exercise, relaxation techniques, talking to someone, writing or art. Experiment with what works best for you.

## Reduce harmful effects of alcohol and drug use

Some people make the mistake of thinking that taking drugs and/or alcohol can help get them through tough times. While it may help people to cope temporarily, drugs and alcohol are one of the leading causes of harm to Australian young people and can contribute to, or trigger, mental health problems over time. Being responsible and reducing your use can improve your health and wellbeing.



## Set realistic goals

Setting realistic goals can help you to work towards a healthy headspace. Small, realistic goals can be a great way to work towards feeling well – everyone has to start somewhere. Work towards eating well, getting more active, sleeping better and also think about working towards long-term life goals. Setting and achieving realistic goals can be incredibly motivating and can help build self-confidence.



## Be socially active and get involved

Social relationships are really important to your general wellbeing. It is okay to take time out for yourself but friends can provide support when you're having a tough time. Spending time with friends is also really important for keeping and building on existing friendships. Getting involved with volunteer work, hobbies, clubs or committees, or sports can help you feel connected to your wider community while also meeting new people. If you're not feeling up to going out, even a phone call, email, text message or Facebook message can help us feel connected to friends and family.



## Relax

There are many ways to relax and different relaxation techniques to use to overcome stress. Progressive muscle relaxation involves tensing and relaxing specific groups of muscles from your feet all the way to your head, while focusing on your feelings of tension and relaxation. You could also try breathing techniques, such as deep breathing or focused breathing (breathing in through the nose and as you breathe out say a positive statement to yourself like 'relax' or 'calm down'). Place a hand over your diaphragm to make sure you're breathing slowly – you should feel your hand move if you're doing it right. Focus on breathing in slowly for four seconds, holding your breath for two seconds and breathing out slowly for six seconds.



## Eat well

Eating well doesn't only reduce the risk of physical health problems, like heart disease and diabetes, but it can also help with your sleeping patterns, energy levels, and your general health and wellbeing. You might have noticed that your mood can affect your appetite and food intake. A good balanced diet with less of the bad things (e.g. junk food and lots of sugars) and more of the good things (e.g. vegies, fruit, wholegrains and plenty of water) will make sure you have all of the vitamins and minerals to help your body and brain function well.

## Practice conflict resolution

Having a hard time with friends or family is difficult for most people. Talking through the issues in a calm and thoughtful way is the best approach. Avoid getting personal, be willing to compromise and listen to their perspective.



## Change your self-talk

Self-talk is the way that you talk to yourself, that voice inside your head. It can be positive (e.g. "I can make it through this exam") or negative (e.g. "I'm never going to be able to pass this subject"). There are a number of things you can do to change the direction of your self-talk. First, listen to your inner voice – is your self-talk helping you or reinforcing bad feelings? Next, try to replace your negative thoughts with more realistic ones. Try to look for a more rational spin on your situation or think of strategies to tackle your problems, rather than giving up hope. By working on your self-talk the more you'll feel confident and in control of yourself.



## Help and be kind to others

Do something to help someone else. Acts of kindness help other people but also make you feel good. Give a compliment, offer to help someone out or volunteer on a once-off project or ongoing, and allow yourself to feel good for making someone else feel good.



## Play

Play is important for staying mentally healthy. Devoting time to just having fun can recharge your battery, revitalise your social networks, and reduce stress and anxiety.



## Develop assertiveness skills

Being assertive means standing up for your own rights, valuing yourself and valuing others' opinions without letting them dominate you. This can help build your self-esteem and self-respect. Being assertive is not the same as being aggressive. Remember to always listen, be prepared to compromise and be respectful of the other person's opinion, while still being confident, calm and knowing what you want.



## Seek help

A problem can sometimes be too hard to solve alone, even with support from friends and family. Be honest with yourself about when you may need support and get professional help. You can see your general practitioner (GP), make an appointment to chat to someone at your local headspace centre or visit [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au). Finding help might feel scary at the start but it gets easier over time. Getting support can help you to keep on track with school, study or work, and in your personal and family relationships. The sooner you get help the sooner things can begin to improve for you.

## Kick back with an app

### Smiling Mind

Smiling Mind is a free guided meditation app that can help you relax and improve your mental health. The app allows you to choose from a variety of meditation programs of different lengths designed for different ages. Programs help relieve the pressure, stress and challenges of daily life.



# HELP!

## Where to go for help

For free, confidential support contact:



☎ 13 11 14

🌐 [lifeline.org.au](https://www.lifeline.org.au)

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services. They are committed to empowering Australians to be suicide-safe through connection, compassion and hope.



☎ 1800 650 890

🌐 [eheadspace.org.au](https://www.eheadspace.org.au)

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. They began in 2006, and ever since have provided early intervention mental health services to 12-25-year-olds.



☎ 1800 55 1800

🌐 [kidshelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25. Qualified counsellors at Kids Helpline are available via WebChat, phone or email anytime and for any reason.



# Bullying

Bullying is when an individual or group uses its power and strength to repeatedly, deliberately and intentionally use words or actions against another or a group that hurts, threatens, excludes, harasses, humiliates verbally, physically, psychologically or electronically making the victim feel oppressed, traumatised and powerless.

## Let's talk about the B-word

### What is bullying?

The sort of repeated behaviour that can be considered bullying includes:

- Keeping someone out of a group (online or offline)
- Acting in an unpleasant way near or towards someone
- Giving nasty looks, making rude gestures, calling names, being rude and impolite, and constant negative teasing
- Spreading rumours or lies, or misrepresenting someone (i.e. using their Facebook account to post messages as if it were them)
- Harassing someone based on their race, sex, religion, gender or a disability
- Intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone physically
- Intentionally stalking someone
- Taking advantage of any power over someone else like a prefect or a student representative

### What is not bullying?

Sometimes kids are just mean or maybe they are having a bad day or an incident occurs that was not really meant to cause harm. Bullying is not:

- One-off incidents that are not repeated
- Having a bad mood or disagreeing with another individual's point of view
- Apologising for behaviour immediately
- Bumping into someone unintentionally
- Statements of dislike towards another/expressions of unpleasant feelings towards another
- A single act of telling a joke that has no intention to make the other feel hurt or embarrassed
- Some non-verbal behaviours, i.e. social rejection/dislike, not hanging out with someone, or choosing a different group to hang out with are not bullying unless that behaviour involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike

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# Types of bullying

## Physical bullying

Physical bullying involves the use of or threat to use physical force and could involve: pushing, punching, spitting, biting, kicking, hitting, damage to belongings, locking the victim in a confined area, group intimidation (mobbing/ganging up/group bullying) and intimidating the victim to commit involuntary actions.

## Verbal bullying

Verbal bullying is the use of words to taunt, threaten, insult, yell, embarrass, put down, swear, mock, threaten or intimidate the victim alone or in front of others. It is the most common form of bullying in Australia. Verbal remarks, some jokes, sarcasm, name calling, teasing and other discriminatory behaviour could be considered funny to some, but such remarks can make others feel self-conscious, embarrassed, anxious and hopeless, and lead to serious cases of insecurity and low self-esteem.



## Emotional/social/psychological/indirect bullying

This form of bullying is common in peer relationships in which another person may make statements or commit actions that distress another individual and affect their self-esteem and confidence. Examples of this form of bullying include:

- Social alienation and deliberately excluding/leaving an individual out of activities
- Encouraging others to reject or exclude the individual
- Creating and spreading unkind rumours and gossip

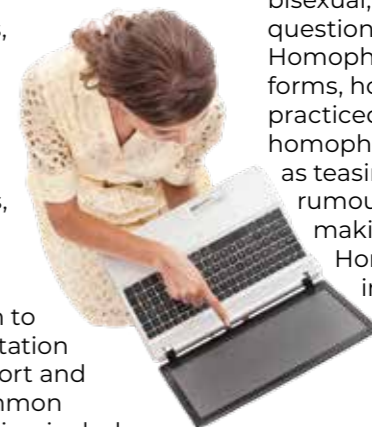
## Racial bullying

Racial bullying is regarded as hostile and offensive actions against an individual because of their ethnicity, country of origin, race, skin colour, cultural and religious background and practices. Examples of this kind of bullying include:

- Physical, verbal and emotional abuse
- Targeted comments that are insulting and degrading in nature, such as name-calling, gestures, taunts, insults and jokes based on racial differences
- Offensive vandalism, such as offensive graffiti and comments, directed towards a group
- Patronising and making fun of an individual's customs, music, accent, dress and physical appearance
- The refusal to work, co-operate or engage with others because of their race, culture or religion

## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the deliberate use of social media platforms, information and communication technologies, new media technologies (i.e. email, phones, chat rooms, discussion groups, instant messaging, blogs, video clips, cameras, hate websites/pages, blogs and gaming sites) to repeatedly harass, threaten, harm, humiliate and victimise another with the intention to cause harm, reputation damage, discomfort and intimidation. Common acts of cyberbullying include cyberstalking, threats to harm, harassment and impersonation.



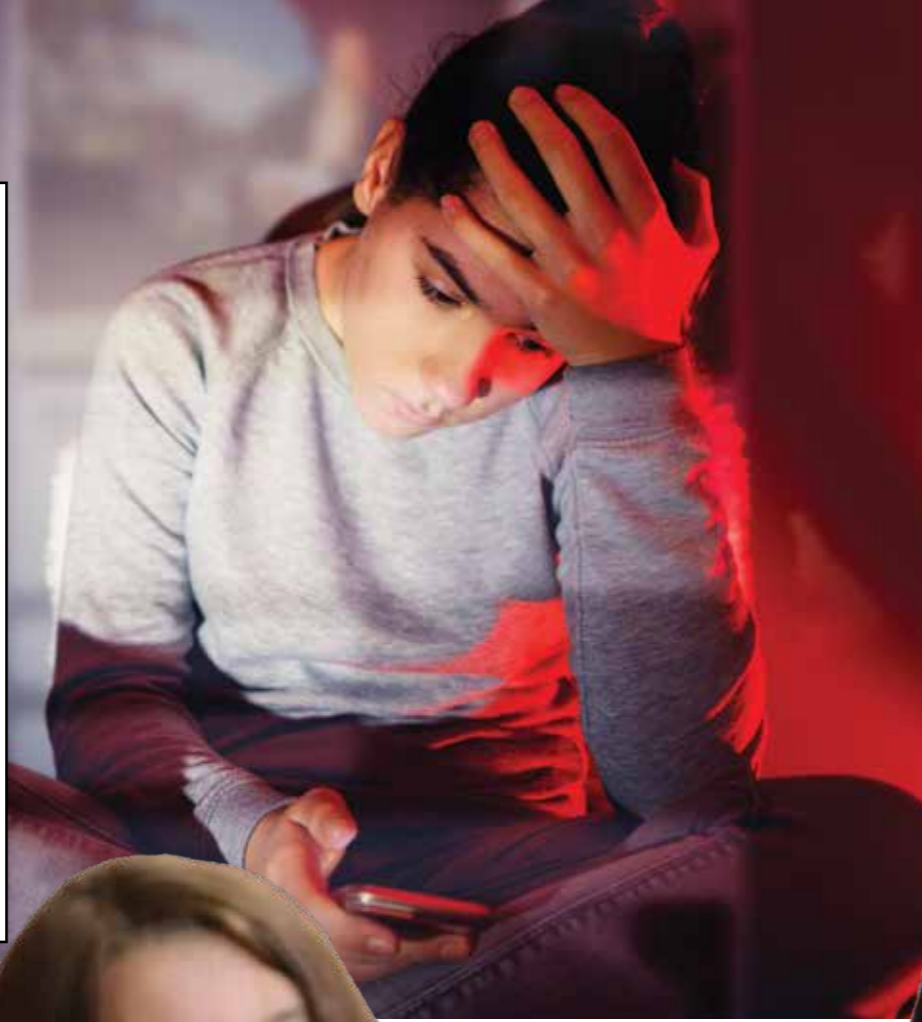
## Homophobic bullying

Homophobic bullying is deliberate and intentional inappropriate behaviour or comments directed towards an individual that identifies as part of LGBTQIA – lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual. Homophobia can occur in various forms, however, the most commonly practiced and experienced form of homophobic bullying is verbal, such as teasing, name-calling, spreading rumours, social isolation and making suggestive remarks. Homophobic bullying can also include physical violence, threats and damage to personal belongings.

## Impacts of bullying

Bullying can have significant and long-lasting impacts on a person's life. A person may feel:

- Scared, afraid, sad, worried, anxious, emotionally hurt, confused, hopeless, upset, ashamed, disconnected and socially isolated/alone
- Low morale and self-esteem and a loss of self-confidence
- Withdrawn and not wanting to attend school or work
- Poor concentration
- Irritated, moody, depressed and angry
- Ashamed or embarrassed about the way they look and feel
- Confused and wondering if it's their fault for being physically, racially, sexually and/or emotionally different
- That there is something wrong with them
- Severe physical and mental health issues



## Being a bystander

You should never underestimate the power that you can have as one person – you could make a real difference in a victim's life by standing up to bullying.

The largest and most powerful group in a bullying situation is the bystander, although the majority of onlookers fail to stand up, support or assist the victim. Bullying can end in less than 10 seconds if a bystander intervenes.

Often in bullying situations, a bystander knows the behaviour is unacceptable and inappropriate, but unless they are asked for help or made to feel they have a responsibility to act, they may stay silent or walk away.

There are many reasons why people don't intervene, including not knowing what to do, being afraid or ignoring the situation as they believe it's none of their business.



## Become an upstander

There are a number of ways you can become an upstander to bullying instead of a bystander. Preventing bullying is everyone's business; we all have a responsibility to act and put a stop to the behaviour. Here's how:

- Step in and tell the bully that their behaviour is unacceptable
- Report their behaviour to a teacher, parent, manager, employee, colleague, union or trusted adult
- Change the culture by standing up against the bully with others in a reasonable, non-aggressive manner
- Be friendly and approachable to the victim – give them your attention and support
- Redirect the situation away from the bullying by focusing on other activities



## Are you the bully?

It is never too late to change your behaviour. Here are some steps to help you make a change to your behaviour today:

- Admitting that your behaviour is inappropriate and hurtful is important
- Think like a bullied individual – put yourself in the shoes of the victim and imagine how they would be feeling
- Take responsibility for your actions and thoughts – acknowledge that your actions and behaviour are not funny and can be damaging
- Talk to your friend or teacher or contact Bully Zero Australia Foundation about what is and isn't bullying or appropriate behaviour
- Stop and think – apologise to the victim and let them know you acknowledge your unacceptable behaviour and that it will not continue
- Talk openly to a trusted friend, teacher, colleague, adult or the Bully Zero Australia Foundation for advice, guidance and support



## Where to go for help

For free, confidential support contact:



☎ 13 11 14

🌐 [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

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National Youth Mental Health Foundation

☎ 1800 650 890

🌐 [eheadspace.org.au](http://eheadspace.org.au)

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. They began in 2006, and ever since have provided early intervention mental health services to 12-25-year-olds.



Anytime | Any Reason

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# Problems with mental health

There are many types of mental health problems that people may face during their lives.

Two of the most common mental health problems in young people are **anxiety** and **depression**. Let's look at the difference between these two mental health conditions.

## Anxiety

### What is it?

Anxiety is an unpleasant emotion many people feel when something might be risky, frightening or worrying. Experiencing mild anxiety is quite normal when facing a stressful situation, like just before a sporting match or exam.

### How do I know what I'm feeling is not normal?

Anxiety can become a problem when feelings of being overwhelmed become very intense, happen regularly and interfere with your daily functioning to live a comfortable and happy life.

### What symptoms should I look for?

Physical feelings of anxiety may include increased heart rate, faster breathing, muscle tension, sweating, shaking and 'butterflies in the stomach'.

Others include:

- Persistent worrying and excessive fears
- Being unable to relax
- Avoiding challenging situations
- Being socially isolated or withdrawn
- Trouble concentrating and paying attention
- Poor sleep
- Problems with school, social or family life



## Depression

### What is it?

Depression is one of the most common health issues for young people, characterised by feelings of sadness that last longer than usual, affect most parts of your life and stop you enjoying things that you used to.

### How do I know what I'm feeling is not normal?

We can all feel sad, irritable or sensitive to what's happening around us from time to time.

This can make it harder to tell if you're experiencing 'normal' feelings or becoming depressed. If you feel like this most of the time for weeks at a time and have lost interest in activities you usually enjoy, you may need support.

### What symptoms should I look for?

- Loss of interest in food or eating too much, leading to weight loss or gain
- Having trouble sleeping (getting to sleep and/or staying asleep), or oversleeping and staying in bed most of the day
- Feeling tired most of the time, or lacking energy and motivation
- Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
- Feeling worthless or guilty a lot of the time
- Feeling everything has become 'too hard'
- Having thoughts of death or suicide



## When mental health goes downhill

Feeling down, tense, angry or anxious are all normal emotions, but when these feelings persist for long periods of time they may be part of a mental health problem.

Mental health problems can influence how you think, and your ability to function in your everyday activities at school, work or in relationships.

It can be helpful to talk to someone about what is going on in your life if you have noticed a change in how you are feeling and thinking. This might include:

- Feeling things have changed or aren't quite right
- Changes in the way that you carry out your day-to-day life
- Not enjoying, or not wanting to be involved in things that you would normally enjoy
- Changes in appetite or sleeping patterns
- Being easily irritated or having problems with friends and family for no reason
- Finding your performance at school is not as good as it used to be
- Being involved in risky behaviour that you would usually avoid
- Feeling sad or 'down' or crying for no apparent reason
- Having trouble concentrating or remembering things
- Having negative, distressing, bizarre or unusual thoughts
- Feeling unusually stressed or worried

## Causes of mental health problems

A number of overlapping factors may increase your risk of developing a mental health problem. These can include:

- **Early life experiences:** abuse, neglect, or the loss of someone close to you
- **Individual factors:** level of self-esteem, coping skills and thinking styles
- **Current circumstances:** stress at school or work, money problems, difficult personal relationships, or problems with your family
- **Biological factors:** family history of mental health problems

For more information about anxiety, depression, other mental health problems and where to get support and help please visit [beyondblue.org.au](https://beyondblue.org.au)





# Getting help

If you feel your mental health is getting in the way of your daily life it is important to get support and ask for help. You could do this by visiting your local general practitioner (GP) or headspace centre.

To find your nearest headspace centre or for online and telephone support, visit [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au)



## If your friend is not okay

Getting help for a friend can take time and effort but it is worth it. As part of being a good and supportive friend there are times when we will need to check in with our friends to ensure that they are okay. Good help will assist your friend to deal with their problems and help them get on with life. If your friend tells you that they're not okay, you should:

- **Listen and try not to judge or 'fix things' straight away.** Taking the time to listen lets them know that you care and that their feelings are important. If someone has been going through a tough time, it can be a big relief to talk about what has been going on. Listening can be helpful; even without taking any actions, it might just be what they need. And don't panic, the fact that your friend sees something is wrong is a really important first step.
- **Let your friend know that they don't have to go through this on their own** and that you are there to help and support them.
- **Some people need time or space before they're willing to accept help.** Just giving them information about where to get help or providing them with fact sheets can be useful.
- **Suggest they read stories at [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au) about other young people who have made it through difficult times.** It may help reduce their feelings of being alone and give them hope for the future.
- **Be honest about why you are worried** and ask if anyone else knows about how they are feeling.
- **Encourage them to try some self-help strategies.** Things like eating well, exercising, writing feelings down, getting enough sleep, doing things they enjoy and avoiding alcohol and other drugs are just a few self-help tips that your friend could try.
- **Don't be too forceful in encouraging self-help activities.** It's important to understand that your friend may not feel able to use them because of how they are feeling, or they may not be enough to help them to feel better. If they're interested, you may be able to do some of the strategies with them, such as going for a walk or watching their favourite movie.
- **Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult** about what is going on and how they are feeling (e.g. a family member, teacher, sports coach).
- **Sometimes self-help strategies and/or talking to family and friends is not enough and that's okay.** There are a lot of professionals out there who can help. Suggest they make an appointment with their general practitioner (GP) or their nearest headspace centre if things don't begin to improve. You could offer to go with them if they need extra support.

## If your friend doesn't want to get help

If you are still worried, continue to support them in a respectful way – try not to judge them or become frustrated. Let their family or another trusted adult know that you are worried. You have to strike the right balance between your friend's right to privacy and the need to make sure they are safe. If you decide to tell someone else, try to let your friend know first that you are planning on doing this. If you are worried that your friend needs urgent medical help or might hurt themselves or somebody else, you need to tell somebody immediately, even if they have asked you not to. This could be a parent, teacher or someone from a local health service.

## What not to do or say

- Don't tell them to cheer up or get over it – this is not helpful.
- Don't encourage them to have a night out involving drugs or alcohol. Substance use is likely to make things worse.
- Don't make promises you can't keep – if your friend is at risk of harming themselves or somebody else, you need to seek immediate help, even if they ask you not to.



# Self-care menu

## Self-care is important for all of us.

Choose a menu item from each of the three sections below that you will do **TODAY** to ensure you're taking the very best care of YOU. Use this menu each day, change things up, try new things – and ensure your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing are a priority.



### Physical Wellbeing

- Exercise
- Eat healthy food
- Drink lots of water
- Stretch
- Sleep
- Go for a walk
- Jump on a trampoline
- Dance
- Play with a pet
- Be in nature
- Care for a pot plant
- Hug someone
- Have a pamper day
- Do gardening
- Complete a home fitness circuit

### Mental Wellbeing

- Schedule some technology-free time
- Learn something
- Practice gratitude
- Go outside
- Declutter/rearrange your bedroom
- Read something inspiring
- Write positive affirmations
- Create – draw/cook/make/build
- Set a goal
- Do some mindful mandala colouring
- Complete a puzzle
- Meditate

### Emotional Wellbeing

- Take 5 deep breaths
- Play a board game
- Write in your diary or journal
- Tell someone a joke
- Listen to music
- Create a collage or mood board of your favourite things
- Connect with a friend or family member
- Re-read your favourite book
- Help someone
- Donate/volunteer
- Stargaze or cloud-gaze
- Write a bucket list
- Use positive self talk

Today's date:

Menu selection

Physical:

Mental:

Emotional:

# Mood booster

## Get grounded by using your five senses.

Choose one thing from each of the sections in the chart below to bring you comfort, joy, calm – and instantly shift your mood.



### Hear

- music
- a friend's voice
- guided visualisation
- wildlife/birds out in nature
- podcast
- comedian
- motivational speaker on YouTube
- water fountain
- TED Talk



### See

- funny movie
- candle gazing
- face-to-face conversation
- stargazing
- cloud watching
- memes
- cute animal pics
- watch funny cats
- sunset/sunrise
- inspirational quotes
- lava lamp



### Touch

- pat a pet
- hot bath
- slime
- hug someone
- kinetic sand
- something cool
- fidget toy
- smooth pebble or crystal
- fluffy blanket
- gardening
- stress ball
- something warm
- Play-doh



### Smell

- essential oil
- scented candle
- flowers
- home-baking
- fresh, morning air
- bath oil or body wash
- the ocean
- trees and grass
- your favourite meal



### Taste

- peppermint tea
- something savoury
- something sweet
- favourite healthy snack
- yummy treat
- sparkling water
- warm, comforting drink
- something you made yourself

Courtesy of Bully Zero  
[bullyzero.org.au](http://bullyzero.org.au)



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and support local schooling



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# How to ask a friend if they're OK



**We all have good and bad days**

But did you know young people are **most likely** to talk to friends or family members as the first step in seeking support when they're struggling.

Asking a friend how they're going could be the first step in getting them the help they need.

You're not expected to fix someone's problems or know the best way to help and support. But you can listen to what your friend is saying, let them know you care and tell a trusted adult if you're worried about them.

## When to ask R U OK?

These are some of the signs or changes that can indicate a friend might need some support.

You might notice that they:

- Withdraw from their friends or their family.
- Lash out at people and get angry or upset easily, including towards the people they care about.
- Cry or become emotional.
- Lose interest in activities and things they usually love.
- Have changed their sleeping patterns. They might be sleeping all the time, not sleeping much at all, or sleeping at strange hours (like in the middle of the day).
- They could be eating more than usual, or less.

The most important thing is to trust your gut. If you notice a change or just feel that something's not quite right with your mate, take the time to ask, "are you OK?"

## Before you ask R U OK?

- Make sure you're in a good headspace, so you're not distracted or stressed.
- To help them feel comfortable opening up, find a time and place that works for you both.

For more tips visit [ruok.org.au](http://ruok.org.au)

**RUOK?**  
A conversation could change a life.

## 1. Ask R U OK?

- Be yourself, be genuine and start the conversation in a way that feels right for you and your friendship with them. You don't need to dive into the heavy stuff straight away. You might start by talking about general stuff. When you're ready to ask them how they're going you could ask something like:

How are you?

I'm here for you if there's anything going on you want to talk about?

My week's been rough. How was yours?

How are things going at home/school/uni/TAFE/work?

- It can help to make an observation about a change you've noticed:

You seem pretty tired. What's been going on?

I haven't seen you around as much lately. How have you been?

It's not like you to react that way. Is there anything going on for you?

- Sometimes it takes a while for someone to feel ready to open up. If they're not ready to talk, give them some time, and if there's an opportunity that feels right then ask them again.
- If they don't want to talk let them know you're always ready to listen or ask if there's someone else they'd be more comfortable chatting to.

## 3. Encourage action

- Things that could help include talking to a family member, friend or trusted adult or connecting with a health professional or support service.
- You could say:

"What do you think might help you right now?"

"What can I do to help you?"

"Have you talked to anyone else about this? It's great you've opened up to me, but it might be good to get advice and support from a health professional."

"Did you know that you can get free and confidential support online or over the phone from places like Kids Helpline and ReachOut.Com? These services are confidential and can help you figure out what's going on for you and where you can find the right support. If you're looking for some face-to-face support I've heard headspace is great."

## Useful contacts for someone who's not OK

**Kids Helpline**  
1800 55 1800

24/7 private and confidential phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5-25.

**headspace**  
[headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

Support and information for young people 12-25 for mental health and what's going on in their life.

**ReachOut.COM**  
[au.reachout.com](http://au.reachout.com)

Help with tough times for 14-25 year olds and their parents.

## 2. Listen

- Listening with an open mind and not judging shows your friend that you're there for them and helps them feel safe being honest with you.
- If there's silence, try and sit patiently with it. When someone's sharing for the first time it can take time for them to find the right words.
- You can show you're listening through eye contact and nodding at what they're saying.
- Asking open ended questions can help them open up.  
You could ask:

How are you handling all of that?

Have you been feeling this way for a while?

What's been the hardest thing for you?

## 4. Check in

- Remember to check in a few days later to see how your friend is doing.
- Ask how they're going and if they've found a better way to manage the situation. They may not have taken any steps yet as it can take time for someone to be ready to get help. Be positive about the role of professionals and accessing support in managing tough times.
- It's important to stay in touch and show them you've got their back. Your ongoing care and support can make a difference.



# Coping with bad world news

It can sometimes feel like the bad news just never ends. From a global pandemic that has been a dominant media feature since early 2020 to natural disasters and tragic accidents and events, the constant 24/7 news cycle can make us feel sad, anxious, even angry.

When bad news breaks, it can be hard to escape from it. You might find it tricky to unplug or think about other things. It's totally normal to feel overwhelmed by the news, especially when good news stories can seem harder to come by. So, if you're feeling down about the world, we've got some tips for you.

This might help if:

- you've been feeling overwhelmed by the news
- you don't know how to react to bad world news
- you're finding it hard to disconnect from the media

## Why does bad world news affect us?

On a planet with almost eight billion people, it's really easy to feel disconnected. But when a world tragedy strikes, feelings of worry, sadness and grief are more common than you might think.

When we see upsetting information, our bodies react by releasing stress hormones to deal with the negative emotions. As news outlets can also be skewed towards reporting bad news over good news, this can create long-term negative effects on our wellbeing.

## Reacting to bad world news

There are endless kinds of news stories that can make you feel really down. Some common reactions to bad world news include feeling:

- anxious and worried
- depressed and sad
- helpless
- confused
- angry

Content for this section is courtesy of

**REACH  
OUT.COM**

For more information or for online and telephone support, visit [reachout.com](https://reachout.com)

# How can I cope with bad world news?

There are a few things you can do to help.

## Learn to switch off

It's easier said than done, but taking a break from social media and the news can do a lot to help tackle the effects of bad world news.

A majority of social media users will see shared news articles on their feeds, and with the media's emphasis on negative news, it's easy to be overwhelmed by your time on social media.

If you notice yourself feeling down because of the things you're seeing on social media or in the news, take a break. You could try going for a walk, reading a book, listening to music or a podcast, playing a game, or just being outside in the fresh air without your devices.

In the long-term, you could set yourself some rules. For example:

- Only check the news at one or two set times per day.
- Schedule blocks of time every day that are free of social media. You could try not using social media/your phone for three hours after you wake up, so you can start the day fresh, or for a couple of hours before you go to bed, to help you properly unwind.
- Make sure every day to spend at least 15 minutes on self-care or an activity you enjoy.

## Rethink your news sources

For some people, staying on top of what's going on in the world is pretty important. Many news sources are focused more on getting clicks and views than on providing unbiased information. This is why the language used in some news articles or videos can be over the top, which can trigger a bigger emotional response.

**Good news reporting has these characteristics:**

- **It is focused on the truth.** Not only does it verify facts, but it also presents them in an accurate context.
- **It is fair and doesn't take sides.** All sides of an issue are presented, and the context of the story is never left out intentionally in order to influence a reader's understanding.
- **It is independent.** Reporters aren't influenced by sources in any way, including for personal or financial gain.
- **It is accountable.** Any errors or unfair coverage are acknowledged and corrected.



**Have a look at where you're getting your news:**

- Is it from reputable, objective sources that are emotionally neutral?
- Are you getting the full picture, or just snippets from social media and news headlines?
- Are there any sources that upset you less than others?

If you find that certain sources keep popping up and often leave you feeling upset, you can always unfollow or block them.

## Try to understand why the news is upsetting you

Sometimes, world news can hit close to home. Whether it's a tragedy in your family's country of origin, or the death of a person you really admire, world news can feel very personal.

If what you're feeling is more than just a sense of empathy for those affected by a tragedy, it's worth speaking about it to someone you trust. Chat to your friends, family or even a counsellor about how the news is affecting you. The simple act of talking can help you process what's going on and make you feel a whole lot better.



## Where to go for help

For free, confidential support contact:



To find out more or get support, visit ReachOut at [REACHOUT.COM](https://www.reachout.com)

You can also join a ReachOut Online Community forum that is free, anonymous and available 24/7 for people aged 14-25 in Australia. Go to [reachout.com/online-community](https://www.reachout.com/online-community)

## Have 'no news' time with loved ones

Spending time with friends or family can help boost your mood.

Whether it's doing an activity together, like cooking or walking your pet, or just having a chat, it can help you take your mind off things. Mention to your loved one that you don't want to talk about news or current affairs. You could even specify which issue or story you want to avoid for the moment.

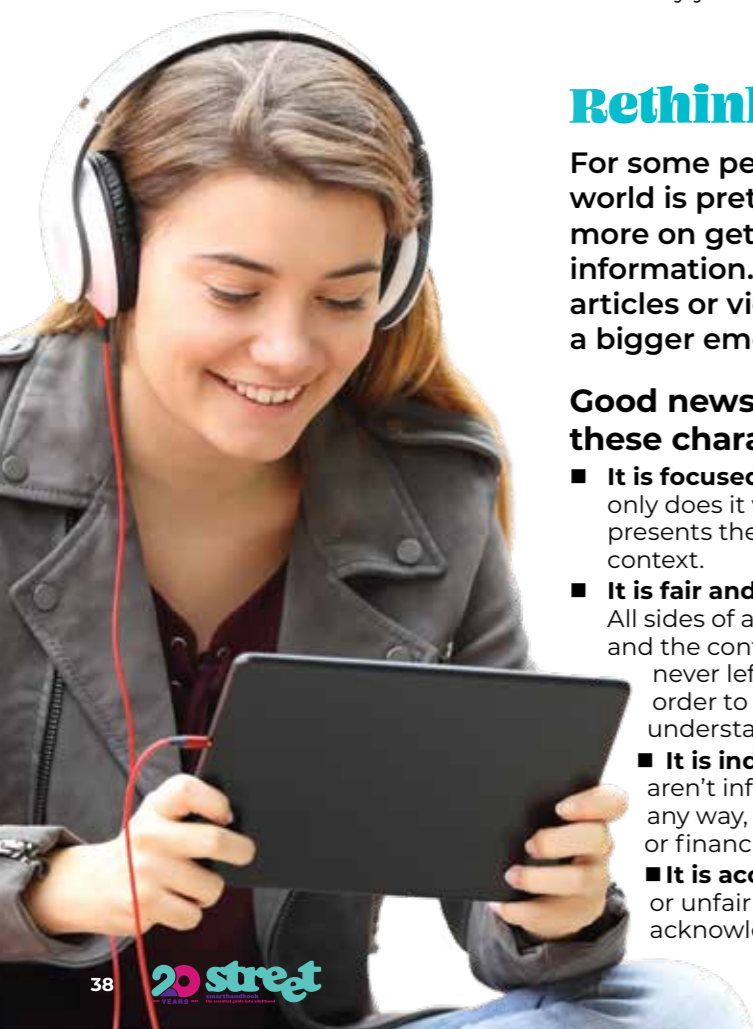


## Accept your level of control

When something bad happens, our immediate response may be to ask ourselves what we can do to help, and how we can put an end to it. Feeling helpless is a natural response, and one that can cause stress.

While there are usually things, big and small, that we can do to help a situation, we can't stop it entirely on our own. Learning to understand how much influence we can have over something is a very important step in reducing the stress we might feel on hearing bad news.

We're not saying that you shouldn't try to help. In fact, helping out and trying to do something positive can often make us feel better. But we need to understand what is the most helpful way to contribute to a cause, and learn to accept the limits.





# Healthy Body

This section provides information that will help you make good healthy choices, the importance of keeping active and getting enough sleep, and resources that will support you if you run into any challenges that are stopping you from maintaining a healthy body.

Content for this section is courtesy of



Information in this section courtesy of  
The Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne



# Eat right

Eating healthy food is important at any age, but it's especially important for teenagers.

As your body is still growing, it's vital that you eat enough good quality food and the right kinds to meet your energy and nutrition needs.

Being a teenager can be fun, but it can also be difficult as your body shape changes. These physical changes can be hard to deal with if they aren't what you are expecting. There can be pressure from friends to be or look a certain way, and this might affect the foods you eat. It's not a good time to crash diet, as you won't get enough nutrients, and you may not reach your full potential. Following a sensible, well-balanced diet is a much better option, both for now and in the long-term.

As a teenager, you'll start to become more independent and make your own food choices. You'll hang out with your friends or get a part-time job so you can buy the things you like. Because you are still growing, you need to take extra care to get enough of some important vitamins and minerals to feel good and be healthy.



## What should I eat?

Eating three regular meals a day with some snacks will help you meet your nutrition needs. Skipping meals means you will miss out on vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates, which can leave you lacking energy or finding it hard to concentrate. Here is a guide to help you understand the value of what you eat.

**Breads, grains and cereals** are carbohydrates that provide energy for your brain and muscles. They're also an excellent source of fibre and B vitamins. Without enough carbohydrates you may feel tired and run down. Try to include some carbohydrates at each mealtime.



**Fruit and vegetables** have lots of vitamins and minerals which help boost your immune system and keep you from getting sick. They're also very important for healthy skin and eyes. It's recommended you eat two serves of fruit and five serves of vegetables a day.



**Meat, chicken, fish, eggs, nuts and legumes (e.g. beans and lentils)** are good sources of iron and protein. Iron is needed to make red blood cells, which carry oxygen around your body. Protein is needed for growth and to keep your muscles healthy. Fish is important for your brain, eyes and skin.



If you are vegetarian or vegan and do not eat meat, there are other ways to meet your iron needs, for example, with foods like baked beans, pulses, lentils, nuts and seeds.

**Dairy** foods like milk, cheese and yoghurt help to build bones and teeth and keep your heart, muscles and nerves working properly. You'll need three and a half serves of dairy food a day to meet your needs.



Eating too much fat and oil can result in you putting on weight. Try to use oils in small amounts for cooking or salad dressings. Other high-fat foods like chocolate, chips, cakes and fried foods can increase your weight without giving your body many nutrients.



**Fluids** are also an important part of your diet. Drink water to keep hydrated so you won't feel so tired or thirsty. It can also help to prevent constipation. It is better not to drink flavoured waters or sports drinks because they can lead to more weight gain.





## Eating for study

When at school or studying, your brain needs extra energy. Eating healthy foods is also linked to better concentration. Here are some tips for eating healthier when studying and during exams.

- Eat small frequent meals.
- Easy and convenient nutritious meals include: frozen dinners, tinned soups, peanut-butter sandwiches, breakfast cereal, cheese sandwiches, tuna or chicken and salad sandwiches, baked beans or eggs on toast.
- Snack foods like chips and lollies can cause you to feel grumpy, irritable and low in energy. That's not what you want while you are studying. Try healthier snacks such as yoghurt, nuts, dried fruit, fresh fruit, plain popcorn or vegie sticks with dip.
- Eat only when you are hungry. Be aware of your hunger signals, like stomach pangs, grumbling guts, dry mouth etc. If you need a study break and do not have hunger pangs, have a drink of water or go for a walk.
- People use caffeine for a 'pick me up' to feel more awake or alert. Too much caffeine from coffee, tea, cola and energy drinks can disrupt your sleeping patterns, send your heart racing, make it difficult to focus and/or cause nervousness in some people. Try sticking to one or two cups of coffee or tea a day, or try decaffeinated coffee or herbal teas as an alternative. Enjoy cola or energy drinks only occasionally as they have too much sugar and little nutritional benefit.
- Drink plenty of water. When you are dehydrated you can feel tired.
- Regular exercise helps to improve your blood circulation, which keeps oxygen and nutrients flowing to your body and brain, helping you to concentrate.



## Eating for sport and play

Eating good foods before exercise can boost stamina and endurance. The following foods will help:

- breakfast cereal with milk and fruit
- dried fruit and nuts
- yoghurt and fruit
- English muffin with peanut butter and honey
- banana and peanut butter sandwich
- low-fat muesli bar
- small muffins made with oats or wholemeal flour and fruit or vegetables
- low-fat custard and fruit
- raisin toast and cream cheese
- sushi hand rolls
- fruit scones
- trail mix with dried fruit, nuts, seeds and some choc chips
- fresh fruit smoothie with milk and/or yoghurt



## Achieving a healthy weight

It is easy to grab biscuits, potato chips, cakes, sausage rolls, pies, doughnuts or chocolate bars when you're hungry, but regularly choosing those foods will make it easier to put on excess weight. Enjoy these kinds of convenience foods, takeaway and fried foods occasionally only.

Other things to avoid are drinks with lots of sugar, for example: fruit juice, cordial, soft drinks and energy drinks.



## Preventing acne

No single food causes acne, but what you eat may influence acne. For some teenagers, foods like chocolate or greasy takeaways can have an effect on your skin. To prevent acne, try to eat fewer processed foods, and eat and drink healthily.







# We Care Professional Support

Contact us on Mob: 0434 424 412

Email: [info@wecareprofessionalsupport.com.au](mailto:info@wecareprofessionalsupport.com.au)

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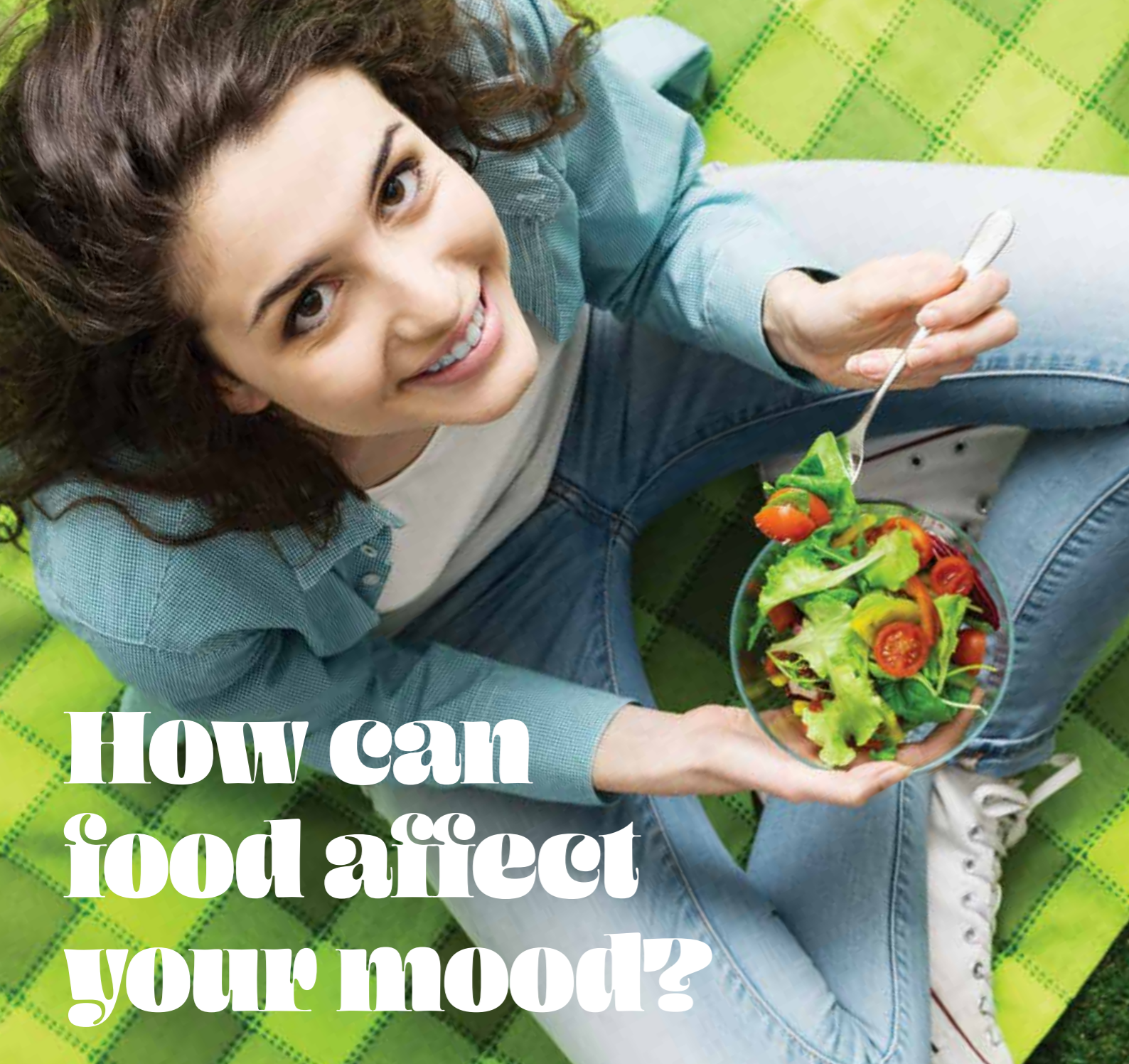
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## Healthier alternatives to your usual snack foods

Swap this ...	For this ...
 Chocolate bar 50 g	 Low-fat chocolate milk drink 250 ml
 Lollies	 Dried fruit
 Large coffee	 Small coffee
 Ice-cream	 Low-fat frozen yoghurt or sorbet
 High-sugar breakfast cereal	 High-fibre cereal e.g. untoasted muesli
 Hot chips	 Baked potato
 Large soft drink	 Small soft drink, diet soft drink or water with lemon or lime
 Chicken schnitzel	 BBQ or roast chicken
 Burger meal deal	 Burger and water or small soft drink/diet drink
 Doughnut	 Fruit scone
 Fried egg and bacon sandwich	 Poached egg and ham in an English muffin



# How can food affect your mood?

Did you know that your food choices can affect the way you feel? Energy slumps, feeling low and difficulty sleeping can all be the result of poor food choices.

Content for this section is courtesy of



For more information, visit [nutritionaustralia.org](http://nutritionaustralia.org)

Improving your diet may help to:

- Improve your mood
- Give you more energy
- Help you think more clearly

Below are our top tips to boost your mood through food!

## Choose the right carbohydrates

Our brain runs primarily on glucose which we get from eating carbohydrate rich foods. Severely restricting carbohydrates can make you feel grumpy and tired as the brain is no longer getting an adequate glucose supply.

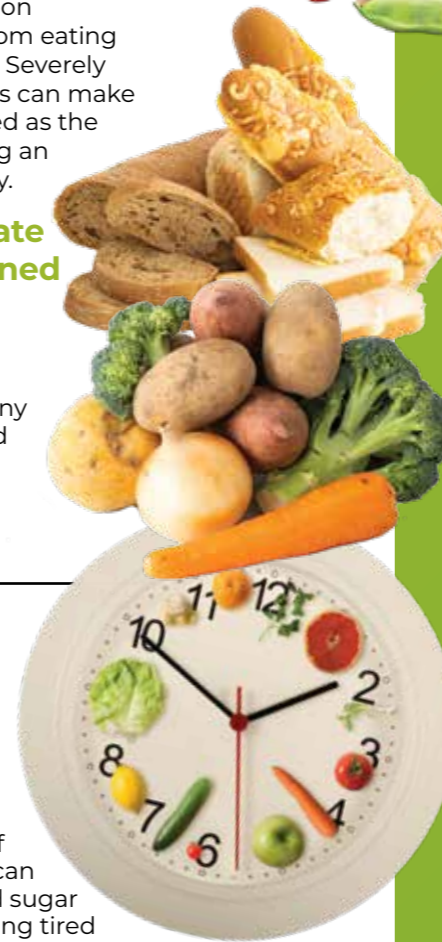
### Better carbohydrate choices for sustained energy release:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Wholegrains like grainy bread, brown rice and oats
- Sweet potatoes
- Milk and yoghurt

## Timing is important

When you eat can have an effect on your mood:

- Going long periods of time without eating can cause a drop in blood sugar levels, leading to feeling tired and irritable
- Overeating to the point of feeling uncomfortable can make you feel tired and lethargic
- Eating moderate-sized meals on a consistent schedule will help maintain steady blood sugar levels and result in an even mood



### Looking for inspiration to prepare a healthy lunch box, snack or meal?

Visit Nutrition Australia's great recipe section available at

[nutritionaustralia.org/category/recipes/](http://nutritionaustralia.org/category/recipes/)



## Eat more plant foods

Plant foods include vegetables, legumes, fruits, grains and nuts and seeds. Many of these are high in fibre. The good bacteria in our large intestine helps manage our mood and stress levels. Eating foods high in fibre and drinking lots of water supports the good bacteria to help us feel happier.

### Remember:

- Energy slumps, feeling low and difficulty sleeping can all be the result of poor food choices
- Choose slow-release carbohydrates for a sustained energy release
- Eat regularly to maintain blood glucose levels Eat more plant foods!

## Eat protein-rich foods

Protein is essential to a good mood. Foods like fish, red meat, poultry, eggs and legumes contain amino acids. Tryptophan is an important amino acid that helps increase the amount of serotonin that is made in the brain. Serotonin is known as the 'happy hormone' as it promotes feelings of calm and relaxation, whilst defending against depression. So, add eggs to your breakfast, some lean chicken to a sandwich or salad at lunch and include some protein with dinner.



## Omega 3s

- Researchers have noted that omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids may help protect against depression.
- Omega 3s are found in fatty fish, seafood, flaxseeds and walnuts.
- Try to aim for at least three 120 gram servings of oily fish like salmon or mackerel each week.
- If you struggle to reach this, discuss with your doctor whether fish oil supplements would be beneficial.



## Watch the caffeine and alcohol

- Caffeine is a stimulant drug. Too much can keep you awake at night and cause difficulty concentrating.
- Alcohol is a depressant which means it slows down brain activity. Initially you may feel relaxed, but it can worsen symptoms of depression.
- Drinking alcohol close to bedtime can decrease the quality of your sleep causing you to wake feeling groggy rather than refreshed.



## Probiotics

It turns out that the bacteria living in our digestive system plays a crucial role in reducing anxiety, depression and our perception of stress. There are hundreds of species of bacteria in our gut, and it's important to have more of the good kind of bacteria. Eating foods high in fibre, drinking plenty of water and getting more probiotics into your diet can keep your gut healthy and your mood stable. Foods like yoghurt, sauerkraut, kimchi, kombucha and fermented vegies are all high in probiotics, but can contain high levels of sodium or salt, so should be enjoyed occasionally.

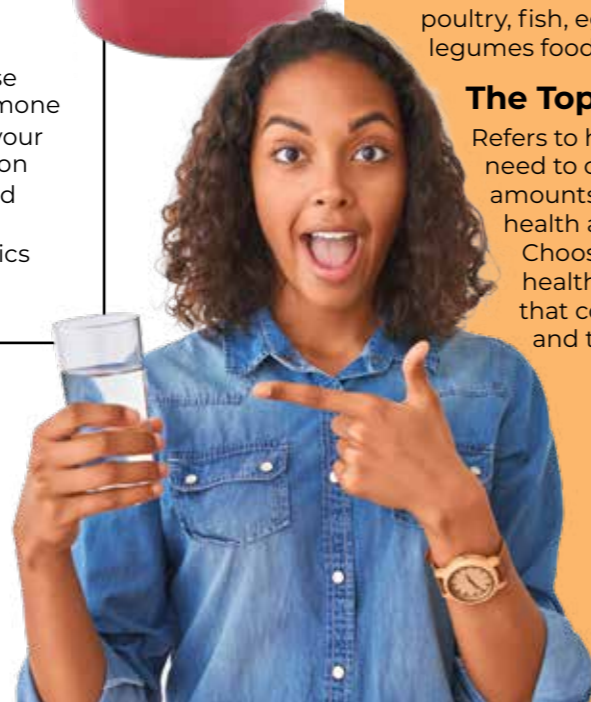


### Remember:

- Add lean proteins to your diet to increase production of serotonin, the happy hormone
- Include oily fish and nuts and seeds in your diet for omega 3s to help fight depression
- Understand your limits with caffeine and alcohol as these can affect your mood
- Eat plenty of plant foods, rich in prebiotics to feed the probiotics in our gut
- Keep hydrated!

## Hydration

Over 70 percent of our brain is made up of water, so it makes sense that being dehydrated is going to compromise how we are feeling. Aim to drink two litres of fluid a day – mainly from water – to avoid headaches, poor concentration and low mood.



# Healthy Eating Pyramid

The Healthy Eating Pyramid encourages Australians to enjoy a variety of foods from every food group, every day.

It is a simple guide to the types and proportion of foods that anyone aged 1-70 should eat every day for good health.

It contains the five core food groups, plus healthy fats, according to how much they contribute to a balanced diet based on the Australian Dietary Guidelines (2013).

### The Foundation layer

Includes the three plant-based food groups:

- vegetables and legumes
- fruits
- grains

### The Middle layer

Includes the milk, yoghurt, cheese and alternatives, and the lean meat, poultry, fish, eggs, nuts, seeds and legumes food groups.

### The Top layer

Refers to healthy fats that we need to consume in small amounts to support heart health and brain function. Choose foods that contain healthy fats instead of those that contain saturated fats and trans fats.

# HEALTHY EATING PYRAMID



*Enjoy a variety of food and be active every day!*

Nutrition Australia

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# Eating disorders

People with an eating disorder experience extreme disturbances in their eating behaviour and related thoughts and feelings. They have an overwhelming drive to be thin and a morbid fear of gaining weight and losing control over their eating. Eating disorders can cause serious physical and psychological problems. They are not a lifestyle choice.

**Eating disorders can be effectively treated and the earlier the treatment the better the recovery. Families and friends often need support and assistance too and are involved in the treatment process.**

A physical health check is essential to rule out possible medical complications that can arise from the condition. It is also very important to have the right information about your diet and about healthy eating, as there is plenty of wrong or misunderstood information about food and nutrition out there.

Talking with a professional counsellor is necessary to help change your thoughts, feelings and behaviours related to the eating disorder, and to help deal with the stressful things that might be happening in your life, like relationship problems, school issues and other things.

## Eating disorder myths

- Myth #1** Only girls get eating disorders
- Myth #2** Eating disorders are a lifestyle choice or about vanity
- Myth #3** Dieting is a normal part of life



# What are the different kinds of eating disorders?

## Anorexia Nervosa

Anorexia Nervosa is characterised by restrictive eating that leads to a person being unable to maintain what is a normal and healthy weight. People experiencing Anorexia Nervosa possess an intense fear of gaining weight or becoming overweight, no matter their current weight and appearance.

## Bulimia Nervosa

Bulimia Nervosa is characterised by repeated episodes of binge eating, followed by compensatory behaviours, such as purging or excessive exercise. People experiencing Bulimia Nervosa often place an excessive emphasis on their body shape or weight.

## Binge Eating Disorder

Binge Eating Disorder is characterised by episodes of eating large amounts of food over very short periods of time, with no compensatory behaviours. People who experience binge eating often feel a loss of control during episodes of binge eating.

## Other Specified Feeding and Eating Disorders (OSFED)

OSFED may present with many symptoms of other eating disorders, but where the person doesn't meet the full criteria for diagnosis of those eating disorders. OSFED is no less serious and with treatment, recovery is possible.

## Disordered eating

Disordered eating is disturbed and unhealthy eating patterns. They can include restrictive dieting, compulsive eating or skipping meals. Disordered eating behaviours, and in particular dieting, are the most common indicators of the development of an eating disorder.

## PICA

PICA is an eating disorder where people eat things that aren't considered food. For example, they may eat dirt, chalk, soap, hair, laundry detergent, among other things.

## ARFID

Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), is more commonly known as "extreme picky eating". A person who is experiencing ARFID often shows highly selective eating habits, disturbed feeding patterns, or both.

## Orthorexia

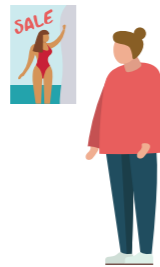
Orthorexia isn't currently recognised as an official eating disorder diagnosis, however there is growing recognition that this may be a distinct eating disorder. It involves an obsession with healthy, or "clean" eating. People will often obsess about the benefits of healthy foods, food quality, but not necessarily quantity of food.

# 6 WAYS TO BE #BODYPOSITIVE



## 1. FOCUS ON WHAT YOUR BODY CAN DO

Think of the millions of unique things your body helps you do everyday. This is a great reminder that you're so much more than the way you look.



## 2. QUESTION WHAT YOU SEE IN THE MEDIA

Next time you see an 'ideal' body, think: *What goes into looking that way? How many people do you see in everyday life that look like that? Is it realistic or helpful to compare yourself to that standard?*



## 3. UNFOLLOW PEOPLE WHO MAKE YOU FEEL CRAP ABOUT YOURSELF

For a positive newsfeed, try following people you admire who have all different interests - and body shapes.



## 4. SAY THANK YOU

Next time someone gives you a compliment, try saying thank you rather than shrugging it off. Showing gratitude can go a long way to improving how we feel about ourselves.



## 5. FOCUS ON OTHER PEOPLE'S GOOD QUALITIES

Looking for the good in other people creates positive vibes and can even help you focus on your own strengths.



## 6. HANG WITH POSITIVE PEOPLE

Surround yourself with people who get you and encourage you to feel confident.



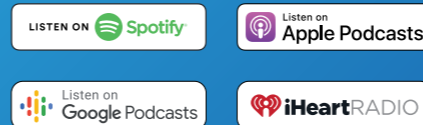
## Treatment that can help

**Successful treatment and complete recovery from an eating disorder is possible.** But because eating disorders are a complex mental illness, people who are experiencing an eating disorder need **expert treatment and support.** Visit [butterfly.org.au](http://butterfly.org.au) for more information.

## Listen in with an app

### Butterfly: Let's Talk

The Butterfly Foundation podcast connects you with experts talking about eating disorders, people with a lived experience and their families and carers. If you're personally affected, caring for a friend or family member, or want to find out more about body image issues and eating disorders tune in to Butterfly: Let's Talk Podcast via Spotify, Apple, Google Podcast or listen on iHeartRadio.



## Where to go for help

For free, confidential support contact:



**Butterfly**  
Foundation for Eating Disorders

If you are suffering from an eating disorder, or suspect one of your friends might be, find out more and get support from the Butterfly Foundation.

- 1800 ED HOPE (1800 33 4673)
- [butterfly.org.au](http://butterfly.org.au)
- [support@thebutterflyorganisation.org.au](mailto:support@thebutterflyorganisation.org.au)



To find out more or get support, visit ReachOut at [REACHOUT.COM](http://REACHOUT.COM)

You can also join a ReachOut Online Community forum that is free, anonymous and available 24/7 for people aged 14-25 in Australia. Go to [reachout.com/online-community](http://reachout.com/online-community)

We know that feeling good about your body or appearance isn't always easy. If you are struggling with body image, visit [ReachOut.com](http://ReachOut.com) or chat to the **Butterfly Foundation** on 1800 33 46 73.



# PREMIUM ACTIVEWEAR AND CUSTOM APPAREL



Fitness Syndicate - Brisbane Valley



**BXFT Custom** is a leading provider of Custom Teamwear, Fitness Apparel, Corporate Wear, Hi Vis Wear and Brands. We are specialists in the fitness market offering specialised custom support to CrossFit Boxes, Gyms and PT's. With a passion for supporting our local community we are proud to support Women in Policing. We supply custom services nationwide. To check out our services head to [www.bxftcustom.com.au](http://www.bxftcustom.com.au). We are also on Instagram and Facebook @bxftcustom



**BXFT** are specialists in the Fitness industry so we also offer a BXFT Retail store where we sell size inclusive Fitness Apparel and Merchandise. To check it out head to [www.bxft.com.au](http://www.bxft.com.au).

**Use WOMENINPOLICING for 20% off at the checkout.**

We are also on Instagram and Facebook @bxftfitnessapparel



# Let's get physical

Regular physical activity or exercise is not only fun but improves your health, helps you maintain a healthy weight and reduces the risk of diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease. It is also really important to stay active during adolescence so that bone growth remains stimulated and the risk of thin or chalky bones (osteoporosis) is reduced in later years.

## CONTACT US:

Phone: 0403 968 201    Email: [info@bxft.com.au](mailto:info@bxft.com.au)  
Website: [www.bxftcustom.com.au](http://www.bxftcustom.com.au)    Website Retail: [www.bxft.com.au](http://www.bxft.com.au)



## Light physical activity

Just moving during the day will also help you stay fit and active like:

- walking to school
- walking the dog
- going to the park with friends
- helping around the house
- playing handball



# Girls

## MAKE YOUR MOVE

#girlsmakeyourmove

## Girls Make Your Move

Studies show that young women are twice as likely as boys to be inactive and that they experience more barriers preventing them from being as physically active. Girls Make Your Move is an Australian Government campaign aimed at inspiring, energising and empowering young women to be more active regardless of ethnicity, size or ability. Ever thought about rollerblading, boxing, rock climbing or yoga? You can find activities such as these and more in your local area by visiting <https://campaigns.health.gov.au/girlsmove>. There are options available for all skill levels and interests. Don't forget to follow @girlsmakeyourmove on Facebook for daily tips and inspiration for getting active.

## Limiting time sitting

Long periods of sitting can reduce the benefits of being physically active, so try to break these up as often as possible. By limiting the time you spend sitting or lying down – especially in front of screens – can help you grow while developing good habits for later life.



## Did you know?

Screen time during childhood can have long-term impacts on your development? A maximum of two hours of sedentary (sitting) recreational screen time is recommended per day. You'll be pleased to know that this does not include screen time needed for school work!

## Increasing your activity

It can be hard to fit exercise into your day so try to see everyday activities as a good opportunity to be active.

A good goal is at least 60 minutes of exercise a day, which can be spread throughout the day.

Experts recommend young people do at least 60 minutes each day of moderate to vigorous physical activity that makes the heart beat faster.

You can do 60 minutes at once or doing a few activities during the day works too!

Incorporate some organised or informal activities that strengthen muscle and bone in your 60 minutes three times a week like:

- football
- basketball or netball
- bike or scooter riding
- swimming
- dancing

## Muscle-strengthening activity

As part of your 60 minutes of daily activity, introduce some muscle and bone strengthening activities a few times a week too, like:

- running
- climbing
- swinging on monkey bars
- push-ups
- sit-ups
- lifting light weights
- yoga



## Work out with an app

### 7 Minute Workout: Fitness App

Stay fit and send stress packing by getting your sweat on.

The 7 Minute Workout App by Johnson & Johnson offers daily workouts designed to get your heart rate up and clear the mind.

You can spare seven minutes and you don't need any equipment, so do it in your bedroom, the lounge room, even outside ... it can be done anywhere, at any time!

The app also includes a health tracker to chart your progress and a custom workout builder, to pick and choose your favourite exercises.





# Sleeping well

Sleep is a really important part of our life. It helps us to feel well, focused and happy. Most people experience a bad night's sleep every now and again, but if you regularly don't get enough sleep it can really affect how you feel and what you can get done during the day.

## How much sleep do I need?

Everyone is different, and the amount of sleep you need might be different to what your friends need. Generally speaking:

- People aged 14 to 17 need between 8 and 10 hours each night
- People aged 18 to 25 need between 7 and 9 hours each night

## Why is sleep important?

Good sleep habits can improve mood, concentration and performance at school or work. They may also help control overeating and help prevent obesity. Lack of sleep is linked to symptoms of depression such as feeling down, hopeless, irritable, having thoughts of suicide and using alcohol or other drugs.

## What gets in the way of a good night's sleep?

For young people, not getting enough sleep might be caused by:

- Biological factors, such as puberty or changes in your body clock
- Environmental factors, such as social pressure, school or university workload, use of electronic devices, or using alcohol or other drugs

Content for this section is courtesy of



National Youth Mental Health Foundation

For more information, to find your nearest headspace centre or for online and telephone support, visit [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au)



# Tips for a good night's sleep

If you're having trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, here are a few things you can try:



**Aim to get to bed and wake up around the same time each day, including on the weekend.** This helps your body to get into a routine. Try not to take naps in the day as this affects your body's routine.



**Turn off your screens (phone, TV and laptop) at least 30 minutes before bedtime.** The light from screens can stop your brain producing the sleep chemical melatonin, which is important in helping you get to sleep.



**Try to limit how much caffeine you have, including coffee, energy drinks and soft drinks.** Also, try to avoid caffeine entirely after lunchtime.



**Avoid drinking alcohol before bed.** It might make you sleepy, but you're less likely to get a good, restful sleep with alcohol in your system.

**Avoid smoking before bed.** Discuss ways to quit smoking, as well as any other problems with drugs or alcohol with your GP.



# HELP!

## Where to go for help

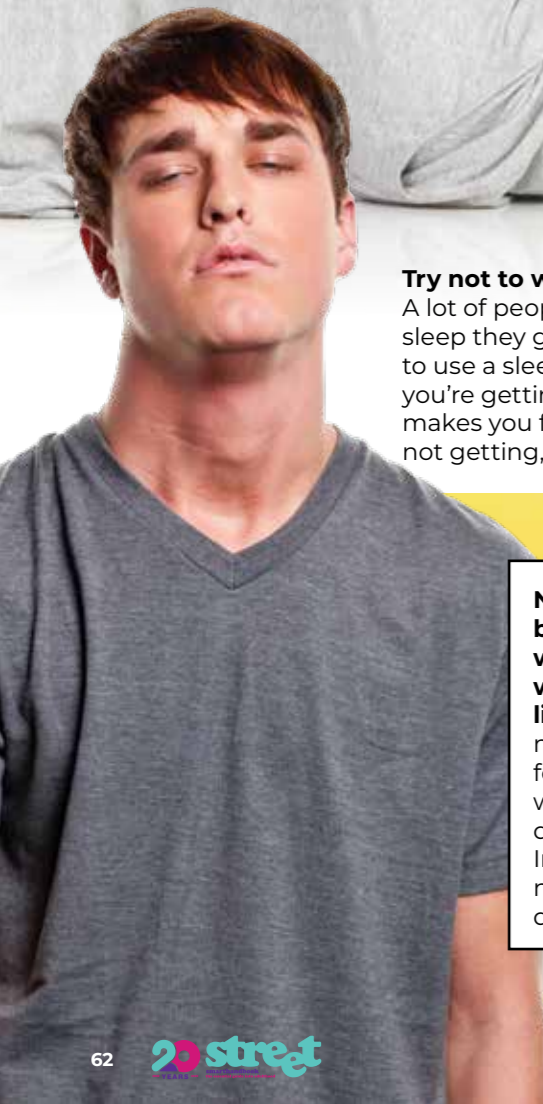
For free, confidential support contact:



☎ 1800 650 890

🌐 [eheadspace.org.au](http://eheadspace.org.au)

If you find it hard to fall or stay asleep, or you feel tired a lot of the time, a healthcare professional may be able to help. Get in touch with your GP or contact headspace ([headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)).



**Try not to worry about having a bad sleep.** A lot of people underestimate how much sleep they get, so you might find it useful to use a sleep app to see how much sleep you're getting. However, if you find that this makes you focus on how much sleep you're not getting, you may be better off without it.

**Natural sleep cycles are based on your body clock, which is mainly set by when you're exposed to light.** Light is needed in the morning, so aim to be outside for 30 minutes, sit by a bright window or use a specially designed artificial light source. In the evening, your body needs less stimulation, so try dimming the lights.

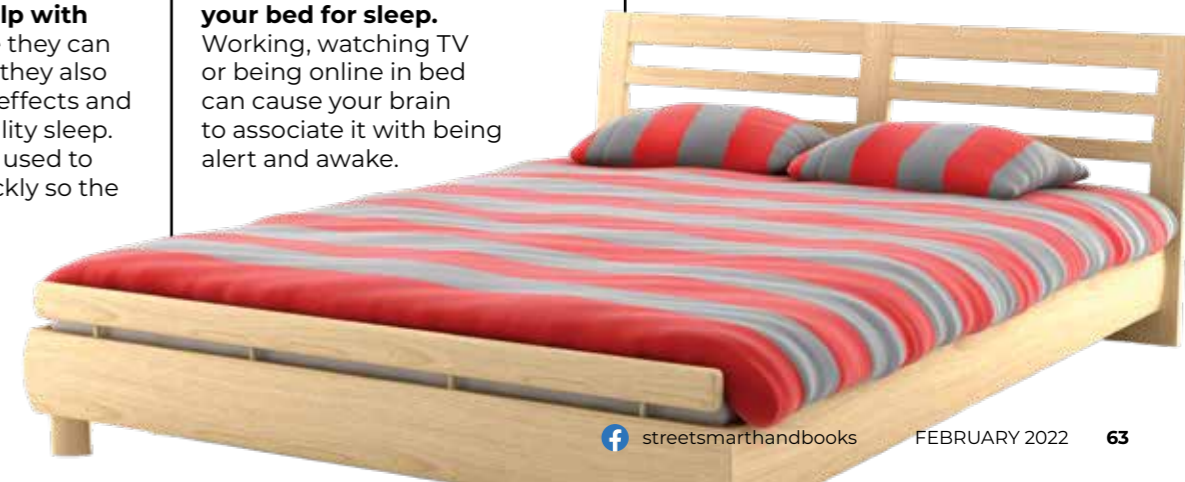


**Exercising during the day is a good way to make you tired at night.** This might mean going to the gym, walking around the block at lunchtime or playing sport. Try to avoid exercising last thing at night though, as this can keep you awake.



**Sleep medications are not usually required to help with sleep problems.** While they can help in the short-term, they also have a number of side effects and may not give good quality sleep. Your body can also get used to these medications quickly so the effect wears off.

**It's best to try and keep your bed for sleep.** Working, watching TV or being online in bed can cause your brain to associate it with being alert and awake.



# Essential Contacts



☎ 1800 650 890  
🌐 [eheadspace.org.au](http://eheadspace.org.au)

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. They began in 2006, and ever since have provided early intervention mental health services to 12-25-year-olds.



🌐 [reachout.com](http://reachout.com)

You can also join a ReachOut Online Community forum that is free, anonymous and available 24/7 for people aged 14-25 in Australia.



☎ 1800 55 1800  
🌐 [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25. Qualified counsellors at Kids Helpline are available via WebChat, phone or email anytime and for any reason.



☎ 13 11 14  
🌐 [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services. They are committed to empowering Australians to be suicide-safe through connection, compassion and hope.



☎ 1800 33 4673  
🌐 [butterfly.org.au](http://butterfly.org.au)

If you are suffering from an eating disorder, or suspect one of your friends might be, find out more and get support from the Butterfly Foundation.



☎ 1300 22 4636  
🌐 [beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

Beyond Blue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live.



Australia values freedom of speech, freedom of association and freedom of religion (including the freedom not to follow a particular religion). Everyone in Australia has the right to express their opinions and beliefs openly. Different or even radical ideas and the discussion they promote are important to maintaining a healthy, liberal democracy. However, it becomes a significant concern to everybody, including families, communities and law enforcement, if a person begins to advocate or use violence to achieve a political, religious or ideological goal. This is the difference between lawful and potentially unlawful conduct.

## What is radicalisation?

Radicalisation is when a person's beliefs move from being relatively "typical" to being "radical", meaning they seek a drastic change in society. This is not necessarily a bad thing and does not mean these people will become violent. However, once these beliefs start to include support for violence as a way to achieve a goal or change, that person has moved down the pathway to violent extremism.

Violent extremists are people or groups who support the use of fear, terror and violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals.

## The signs – what should I look for?

Recruitment into violent extremist groups may occur in person or online. Using the internet to view, download and spread violent extremist material can also be part of the radicalisation process. Often it is friends or family that first notice behavioural changes that indicate a person might be on a pathway to violent extremism. It is important to remember that each person is unique and there are no simple answers for how someone radicalises towards violent extremism. There is no rule book, no single path. However, there are usually some signs that we can all look out for:

## Changes in belief or development of a strong sense of grievance

- The adoption of new beliefs that have become increasingly extreme.
- Lower tolerance of other points of view, and hostility to those who disagree with them.
- The expression of deep-seated grievances against the government or hatred toward specific groups of people.

## Behavioural and social changes

- A person on a pathway towards radicalisation will often pull away from their usual activities and friendship groups. They may also start associating exclusively with a new group of people.

## Changes in online activity

- Increased online activity – spending long periods online looking at statements or posts made on social media, articles, images, speeches or videos that encourage hate or violence.


## What is the Government doing to help?

The Australian Government's *Living Safe Together* Intervention Program is a voluntary program run in every state and territory that provides support to people who are at risk of radicalising, or have already radicalised to violent extremism. Living Safe Together provides tailored services to support individuals to reconnect with family, friends and local community in a more positive way. Further information about *Living Safe Together* and other support is available at [www.livingsafetogether.gov.au](http://www.livingsafetogether.gov.au).

To find out what you can do about violent and hateful online materials visit the eSafety Commissioner's website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/violent-inappropriate-content> and <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/online-hate>.

## How can I help?

If you are worried that a person you know is becoming, or has already become, radicalised to violent extremism it is important that you tell someone. This is the best way you can help them and help keep our community safe. Information about how to seek help can be found on the *Seek Help and Report* page *Living Safe Together* website (Seek help and report ([livingsafetogether.gov.au](http://livingsafetogether.gov.au))).



# Don't touch it, report it.



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

## **UXO.** Curiosity Can Kill You.

You need to understand the real danger of **unexploded ordnance (UXO)**. If you touch UXO - like an old bomb, bullet or hand grenade - it could seriously injure or even kill you. You must know - Don't Touch It!

**Report it to the Police on 000**



[www.defence.gov.au/uxo](http://www.defence.gov.au/uxo)