

## Tenancy resources

If you are having problems with your current rental arrangement and are unsure of where to go for help:

**Tenants Information and Advocacy Service**

Tel: 8305 9459

Country callers Tel: 1800 060 462

Or

**Tenancies Branch at OCBA**

Tel: 8204 9544

For a full list of forms, tenancy legislation and free courses and information sessions:

**Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA)**

Website: [www.ocba.sa.gov.au/tenancies](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au/tenancies)

Having problems with your neighbours/flatmates?

**Community Mediation Services**

Tel: 8384 5222

If you have problems with your landlord and need help to resolve a dispute:

**Residential Tenancies Tribunal Registry**

Tel: 8226 8989

If you have a general housing query and don't know where to go for help or to request a copy of the Sharehouse Toolkit:

**Shelter SA**

Tel: 8223 4077

Website: [www.sheltersa.asn.au](http://www.sheltersa.asn.au)

## What is Shelter SA?

At Shelter SA, we believe everyone has the right to affordable accommodation that is appropriate to their needs. As the state's peak housing body, we work to actively promote and inform the general public, non-government and government organisations about housing and related issues.

We do this via public forums and presentations at conferences, schools and community groups on a range of topics – from mental health issues to affordability and the decrease in public housing stock, from youth homelessness to caravan park residents. And the list goes on...

We respond to government policies, produce our own monthly newsletter, facilitate the annual Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo and carry out small South Australian-specific research projects. Our latest research project focused on developing a youth housing strategy for the Southern Fleurieu region.

And finally, we actively seek to engage with and provide opportunities for vulnerable groups to raise their housing concerns. We do this via one-on-one interviews for the *Telling Stories* feature in Sheltershortz Newsletter, consultations and via our branches. If you have a housing query, then contact us. We can help!

**Shelter SA**

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**Shelter SA**

*GET INFORMED ABOUT*

**HOW TO FIND A  
SHAREHOUSE**



## WHERE TO FIND A FLATMATE AND HOW TO FIND A SHAREHOUSE

Whether you are looking to set up a new sharehouse or rent a room in an existing sharehouse, you will inevitably need to know how and where to find a new flatmate. There are a number of websites available and we have road tested a few of them.

[www.share-house.com.au](http://www.share-house.com.au)

This website is completely free!! Easy to use and lots of South Australian people are listed. For further queries, contact [alfie@share-house.com.au](mailto:alfie@share-house.com.au) You can search for a flatmate or sharehouse via metropolitan area or region (i.e. Adelaide or SA) and most advertisements are detailed and clear.

[www.flatmates.com.au](http://www.flatmates.com.au)

Another website that is completely free!! You can select maximum rent, the length of stay, and when you require it – really useful if you are moving interstate for short periods. This site also has useful tips but they tend to be based on NSW's laws (i.e. rent is paid weekly or fortnightly in South Australia, yet in Victoria and NSW it is often paid monthly).

[www.gumtree.com.au](http://www.gumtree.com.au)

This website is also free! It not only provides information about sharehousing and finding a flat mate but it operates across six countries and 60 cities. This site began in 2000 in London to connect people up who were new to the area and needed help getting a job, accommodation and meeting new

people. You can find all of this on the site and it has lots of South Australian and Adelaide specific information.

[www.space4.com.au](http://www.space4.com.au)

Space4 is an online database for single parents to register their interest in either sharing a house with another single parent or to find another single parent to share their home with the view to sharing childcare and babysitting duties. Space4 enables you to connect with other single parents to pool resources in either house sharing or childcare and it is open to single mums as well as single dads (really useful for dads needing a larger home for access visits). This mutually beneficial arrangement can allow parents to meet mortgage payments, take advantage of a better standard of living, and social and emotional support. You will need to become a member to search the database and post your profile.

[www.flatwithme.com.au](http://www.flatwithme.com.au)

Flatwithme is about bringing people together and letting you find your perfect flatmates. You can find share accommodation by browsing through existing listings or by placing your own 30 day flatmate advertisement for \$19.95 and letting flatmates find you. Once you place your advertisement, everything else is free with no extra fees and charges. At any time, you can browse and print advertisements, contact advertisers and email your friends about share accommodation listings for free. This site also has some really useful tips and resources, bond, rent and expenses calculator, questions to ask, setting a budget and much more.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A FLATMATE OR SHAREHOUSE.

Who are you compatible with? Are you a shift worker and your housemate is a night owl? Are you into Daft Punk and they are into Celine Dion? It is really important to get the mix right and these are just some of the issues you may be confronted with in a sharehouse situation. And don't think just because you 'have known them for years' or you were 'best mates' in Primary School that you will be immune to problems. Bad experiences in sharehouses can ruin friendships and some of the best housemates are people you have never met before, so be open to the possibilities. The key is planning and discussing your boundaries BEFORE it happens and setting some clear boundaries. Here are a few questions to get you thinking:

1. How many people live here on a permanent and casual basis?
2. Do the people who live here like to do a lot of entertaining?
3. What are the arrangements when housemates want to entertain or have friends over?
4. How are decisions that affect everyone in the household made?
5. What are the responsibilities of each person living in the household?
6. What expenses make up the rent? Does it include electricity, gas and water?