

Information sheet

What is a Host Arrangement?

A Host Arrangement is a living arrangement where a host welcomes a person with a disability (herein referred to as 'person') to live in their home and to be part of their lives.

The host may be a single person, couple or family.

The host's home may be the person's primary residence, or the person may come for occasional short-stays.

The host is committed to sharing their home with the person who is to become a valued, contributing member of the household. The host is also committed to building a personal, mutually respectful and nurturing relationship with the person.

The host provides support to the person with their daily life activities and care as required.

The person may also have other supports to assist with their community interests and when the host is not available or has planned breaks.

The person and host may share some interests and social activities. They may also have occupations, interests and social activities which they do independently of each other.

Each Host Arrangement is unique, according to the person's and the host's circumstances.

Through living in a natural home environment and sharing lives with the host, the person experiences an enhanced sense of connection and belonging in their community.

The person and the host value each others companionship and contributions to each other's lives, and the Host Arrangement is enriching for both the host and the person.

Interchange's role

Interchange carefully considers the person's personality, interests, support needs and preferences, when finding a compatible host. The person is involved in choosing a suitable host.

Interchange screens the host and assesses their home and occupants to ensure the living arrangement will be safe and welcoming for the person and occupants of the home.

Interchange organises informal and intentional meetings of the person and host to spend time getting to know each other before they decide if they would like to trial living together.

Interchange establishes an Agreement with the person and the host about how the Host Arrangement will work.

Interchange maintains regular contact with the person and host, and provides guidance and support with any questions or concerns that arise.

Interchange provides ongoing monitoring and safeguarding of the arrangement.

The person and the host are free to decide at any time that they no longer want to live together. When and if an arrangement ends, Interchange works with the person to find alternative living and support arrangements.

Financial arrangements

Interchange generally engages the host in the capacity of a volunteer.

In accordance with Australian Taxation Office guidelines Interchange can pay the host a non-taxable payment, when certain conditions are met, which is a contribution to cover the expenses and impact of hosting the person in their home and providing care to the person.

The person pays for their own personal expenses and pays the host a contribution for their board and lodging.