



# Tips to help you support your mates





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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 NHWA 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 (NHWA) 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.

NHWA 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 NHWA does. The StreetSmart Handbook is an extension of NHWA'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.nhwa.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.

### A message from

# AFP Deputy Commissioner Itesa Gale

As the Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner, 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.

#### Lesa Gale

AFP Deputy Commissioner International & Specialist Capabilities

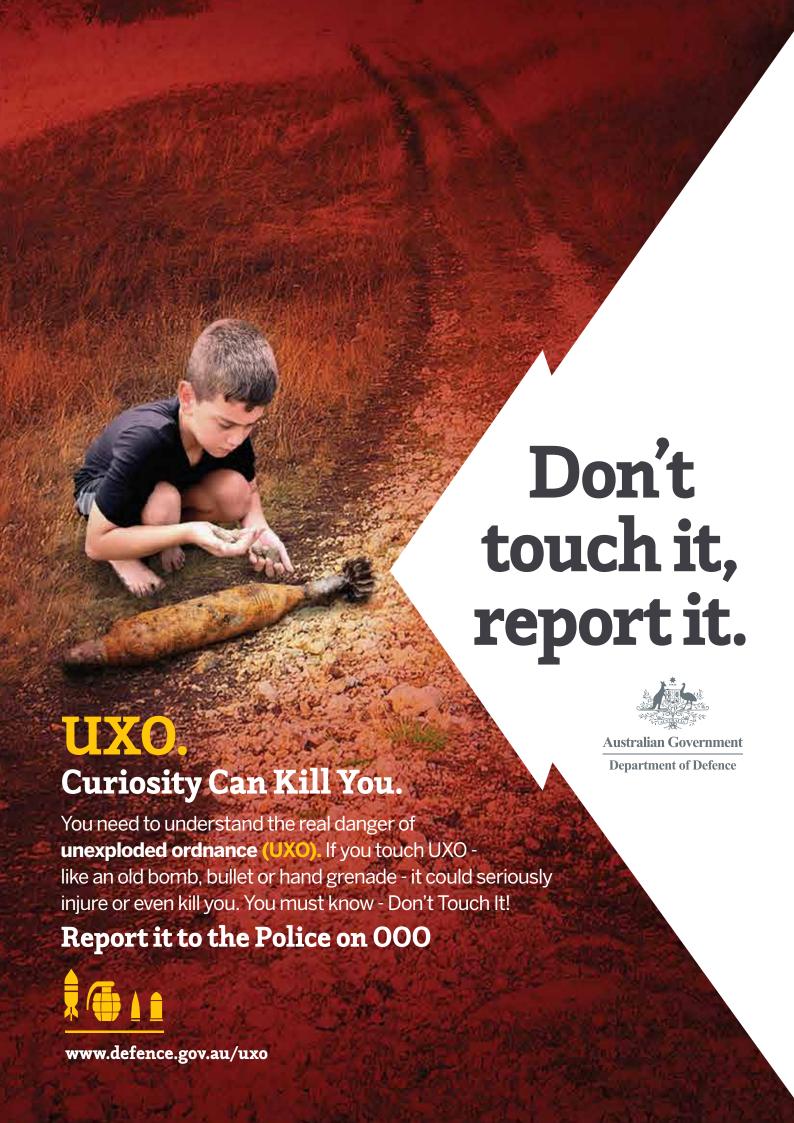


#### **Deputy Commissioner Lesa Gale APM**

AFP Deputy Commissioner International and Specialist Capabilities



The Streetsmart
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do make.





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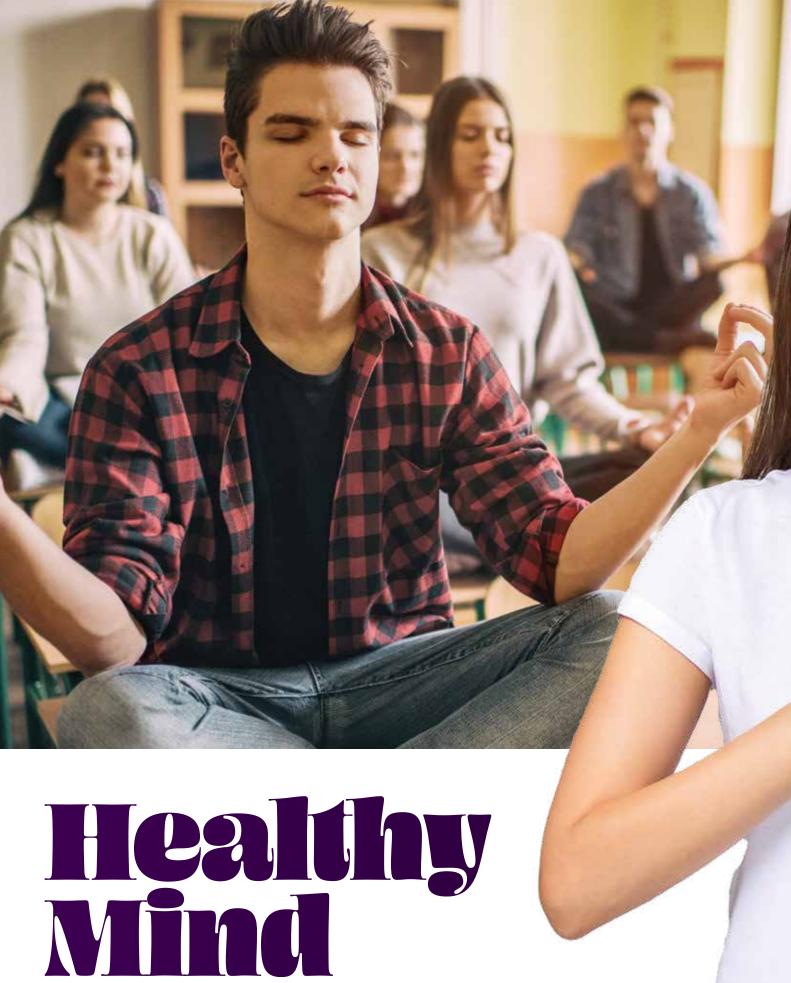


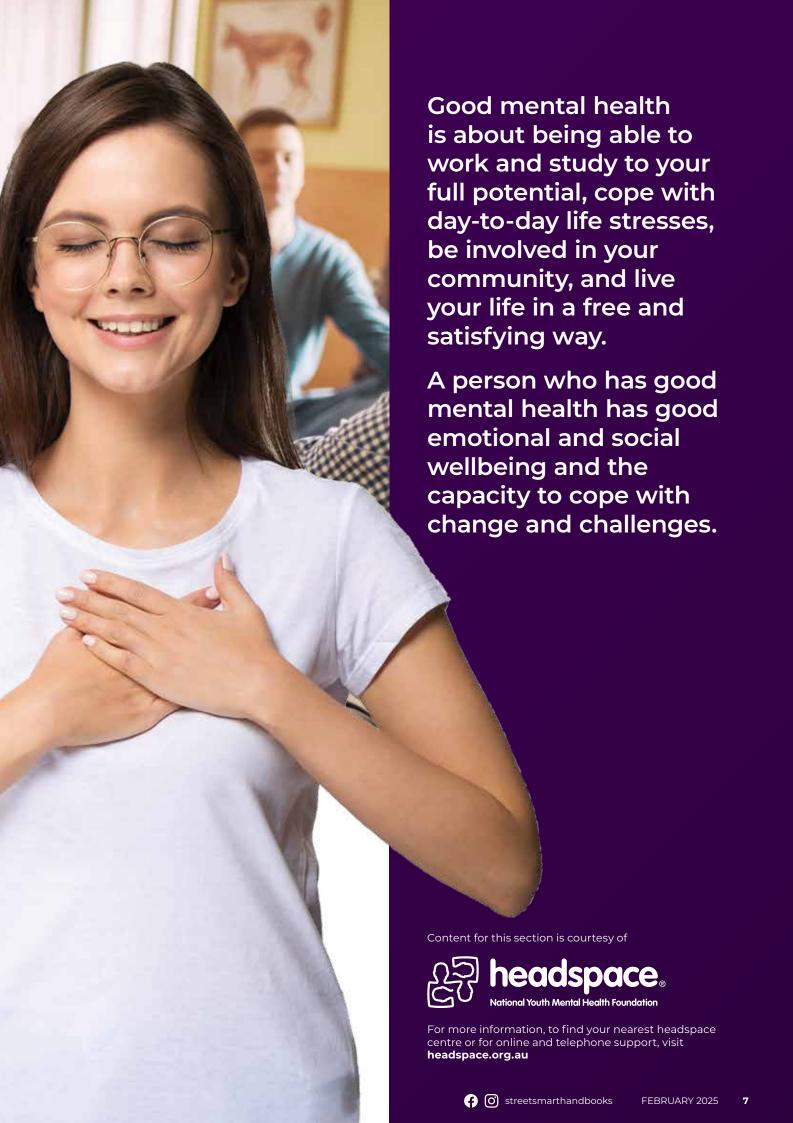
In this edition, we're sharing practical tips and tricks to help you maintain a healthy mind and body.

From boosting your mental focus to staying active and energised, these easy-to-follow strategies will set you up for success—whether you're studying, growing your friendships, playing sports, or just balancing it all.

We know that life isn't perfect and there's obstacles and challenges to navigate. In this edition we cover some of the curve balls life might throw your way that could impact your mindset or affect your physical health.

If you need support, turn to the back and please reach out to the organisation that can best help your situation.







Positive mental health is crucial for young people to thrive.

It builds emotional resilience, enables effective coping mechanisms to deal with challenges, stress, and transitions, and it enhances cognitive function that supports learning and academic success.

Positive mental health also influences social relationships, promoting healthy connections and communication.

Moreover, it lays the foundation for self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of purpose, essential for navigating the complexities of adolescence.

In this chapter, we explore ways to keep your mental health on the up!

### 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.

Turn to page 52 for more about the importance of good 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.

Turn to page 49 for more about the importance of physical activity.

### **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.

Turn to page 56 for links to resources.

# Coping strategies

There are various positive coping strategies you can try to keep your mental health on the positive side: exercise, relaxation techniques, talking to someone, writing or art. Experiment with what works best for you. There is no one size fits all and often it will be a combination of these examples and not just one.







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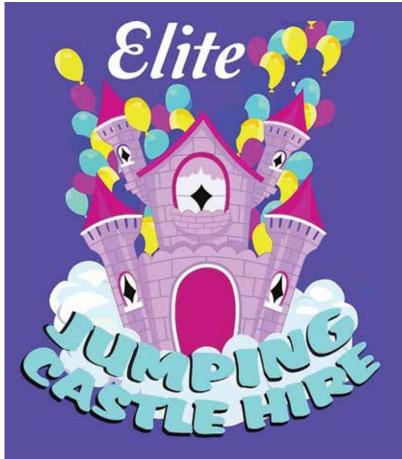
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Setting realistic goals can help you to work towards a healthy headspace. Small, realistic goals can be a great way to work towards feeling well – everyone has to start somewhere. Work towards eating well, getting more active, sleeping better and also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

motivating and can help build

### 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.



self-confidence.

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.





### 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**. 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.

# 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.

# Kick back with an app

#### **Smiling Mind**

Smiling Mind is a free guided meditation app that can help you relax and improve you mental health. The appallows 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.











# Ready to change the world?

# Adelaide University is set to launch the next generation of local and global leaders

It's no secret that we're facing global challenges on many fronts – environmental, social, political and technological. But these challenges also present exciting opportunities for us to come together and create lasting change. And that's the focus of Adelaide University, Australia's newest major university and member of the research-intensive Group of Eight (Go8), to tackle these challenges and embrace the opportunities to drive collective progress.

Adelaide University has been designed to deliver transformative education and reimagined research with impact that will transcend borders around the world. To empower communities and create a brighter future for all.

While it's a new university, Adelaide University builds on the pioneering mindset of its founding institutions (the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia) whose 180 years of significant firsts and ground-breaking discoveries still have an impact on daily life. Like being the first Australian university to admit women to all degree courses on an equal basis to men, to the development of antibiotics and the world's first shatterproof mirror.



### Breaking cycles of inequality through supporting scholarships, flexible learning and alternate entry pathways

Adelaide University is open to students from all walks of life. It is committed to breaking down invisible institutional walls and delivering greater educational equality. Think first in family to go to university, mature age students, First Nations people and those who haven't been given the break they need when life takes over to follow their dreams.

Every element of Adelaide University's curriculum supports access, flexibility and encourages a mindset for lifelong learning. Accommodating the demands of life in the present, while helping people develop the skills they need for the future.

# Challenging traditional learning and asking: how can we do this better?

The new Adelaide University team have had the rare opportunity to take a step back and re-examine all aspects of student life. To ask: how can we best prepare students for the future?

Now, more than 3,000 academics and teaching innovation experts are developing 1,500 new courses with dynamic content ready for when its doors open in 2026.

They've aligned their work to international best-practice and drawn on the very best contemporary teaching and learning research. Research that indicates students perform their best with active learning, when they can immerse themselves in learning through dialogue, small group-work, and practical problem-solving.

# Vibrant, interactive learning sets students up for success

Imagine working in a microbrewery to learn chemical engineering or preparing for the pressure of an operating theatre with escape room style simulations. Using paint on your body that helps 'peel back the skin' so you can study the anatomy underneath or working on (almost) real teeth in dental simulators.

Learning at Adelaide University will be anything but passive. Vibrant, interactive learning experiences where students are encouraged to immerse themselves in the material are the norm. Expert academics will lead learning experiences on campus through practicals, tutorials, studios, seminars, clinics and workshops alongside work integrated learning.

# Dynamic and digital experiences on offer

Most courses at Adelaide University will also include digital learning activities such as videos, podcasts, simulations and discussion forums. Forums will be a gathering place (accessible online and on campus) for all students to come together and workshop opportunities broadly and in their speciality areas.

Self-paced learning modules with high quality digital content and interactive activities like online polls and gamified elements will also help students to develop important technical skills.

These digital engagements add depth and richness to the student learning experience while at the same time increasing access and flexibility. They're essential components to help prepare students for dynamic and digitally-forward workplaces.



# Ready for life beyond the classroom

The University has already collaborated with around 200 employers to co-design programs and better understand what they value most to make sure that students are well-prepared for life beyond the classroom.

All students will take universal common core courses that are linked to the in-demand skills required for modern business, including artificial intelligence, data knowledges, cultural understanding, and entrepreneurship and design thinking.

As well as future-proofing their careers, these common courses give students an opportunity to connect and network with peers across different study areas.



The need for skilled graduates has never been greater. Graduates who are passionate professionals, strategic problem solvers, and resilient and creative thinkers. Who are global citizens that understand their role in the world and do what is right over what is easy. Adelaide University graduates who can change the world.

Adelaide University will be accepting student applications from August 2025 for study in 2026.



Discover more at adelaideuni.edu.au





# Let's talk about the **B-word**

## What is bullying?

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

- Acting in an unpleasant way near or towards
- Giving nasty looks, making rude gestures,
- someone (i.e. using their Facebook account to post messages as if it were them)
- Harassing someone based on their race, sex,
- Intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone
- Intentionally stalking someone
- Taking advantage of any power over someone else like a prefect or a student representative

### What is not bullying?

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
- 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
- Some non-verbal behaviours, i.e. social rejection/ are not bullying unless that behaviour involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike

Content for this section is courtesy of



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#### **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 selfconscious, 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 selfesteem 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
- 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.



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# 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

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.

or walk away.

# 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

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



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 selfesteem, 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



Being mindful of how your mental health is tracking is a great exercise for everyone to do.

Monitoring and maintaining good mental health can be done by assessing your feelings, thoughts, and emotions. Record daily experiences in a journal. It is important to look out for signs that your friends may be struggling too. This next chapter may help with some tricky conversations.



### 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 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 technologyfree 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 hooster

### 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
- TFD Talk



- 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



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

Courtesy of Bully Zero bullyzero.org.au



# **ARGUING THE CASE:**

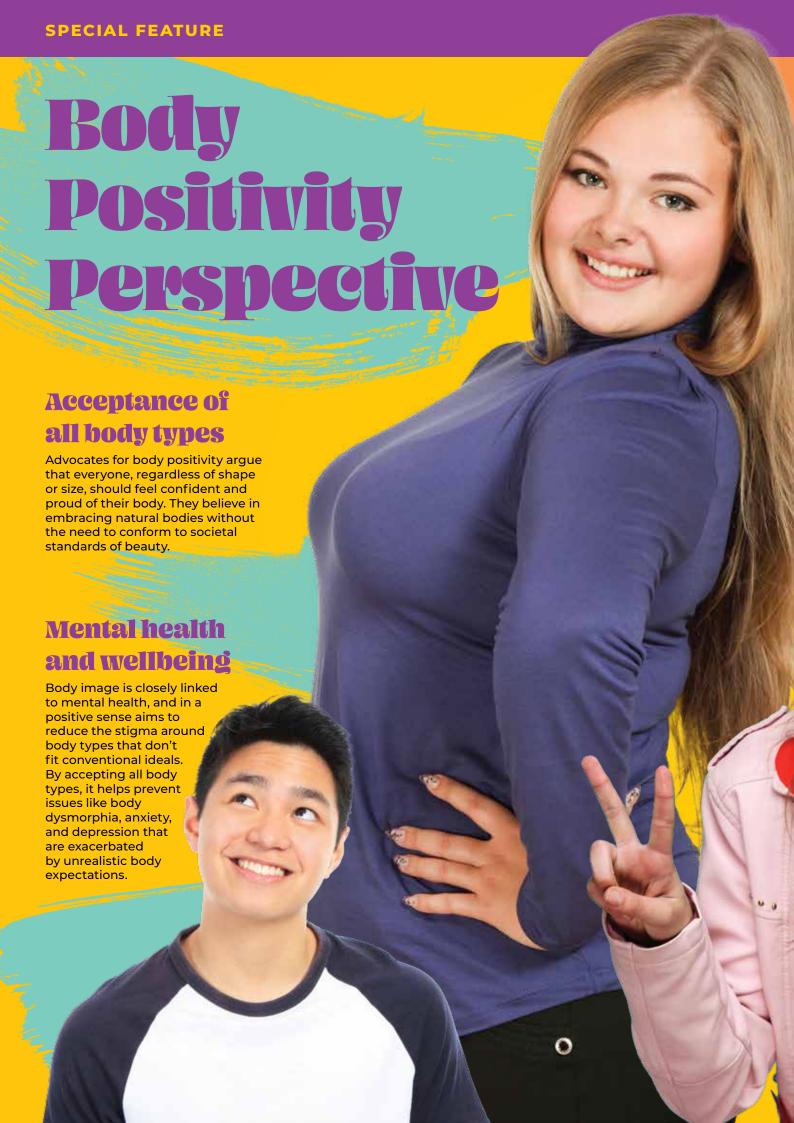
Should we focus on promoting acceptance of all body types, or is it more important to prioritise fitness and physical health even if it involves pushing body standards?

This debate is a powerful and nuanced issue, especially for young people navigating body image pressures, social media influences, and a flooded wellness market.

Let's unpack both three sides of the argument – body positivity or fitness culture or somewhere in the middle.

What do you think? Discuss in class and decide.







### **Challenging Beauty Standards**

Body positivity challenges the mainstream media's portrayal of ideal body types—often lean, tall, and toned—which is increasingly popularised by influencers. It stresses that beauty comes in all forms, and there's no one-size-fits-all definition of beauty.



# The middle ground

While there appears to be a divide between body positivity and fitness culture, like most things in life, there's could be option for a more balanced approach.

#### **Inclusive fitness**

Many fitness advocates are embracing the idea of 'fitness for all body types' where the focus is on strength, endurance, and mental health rather than appearance. People of all shapes and sizes can lead healthy, active lives.

#### **Health before aesthetics**

Body positivity and fitness culture can co-exist harmoniously if the focus shifts from aesthetics (how you look) to wellbeing (how you feel). Encouraging exercise and activity in a way that promotes mental and physical health without shaming people for their body shape could bridge the gap between the two movements.

#### Self-respect and empowerment

A healthy, balanced lifestyle can promote self-respect and wellbeing without having to fit into a specific mold of what's considered 'healthy' or 'beautiful'.



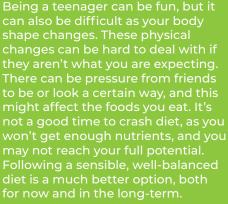




# Healthy Body



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.



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 parttime 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.

## Healthier alternatives to your usual snack foods





#### **How it works**

The user is able to browse or search for a specific training requirement in one place.

Browse or search for your training requirements, A8 compares a multitude of different training providers in one place. Select your preferred training – date, duration, cost, availability, location

Confirm course selection & how many attendees
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Smart eating tips for A+ study sessions



#### Start with a Balanced **Breakfast**

A solid breakfast is the key to setting yourself up for success. Choose whole grains like oats, paired with protein (eggs or yogurt) and healthy fats (avocado or nuts). This combo will keep your brain sharp and your energy steady throughout the morning.



#### Snack smart, not sweet

Instead of sugary snacks that cause energy crashes, try nuts, seeds, or fruit. These foods provide long-lasting energy without the slump, helping you stay focused during those tricky study sessions.



#### Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate

Staying hydrated is crucial for concentration and memory. Aim for water, herbal teas, or coconut water. Try to limit sugary drinks and caffeine, as they can lead to energy dips.



#### **Brain-boosting** foods

Certain foods are known to give your brain a boost! Blueberries, salmon, and leafy greens are all great choices for enhancing memory and focus. Incorporate them into your meals to stay at the top of your game.



Studying hard requires more than just late-night cramming and endless coffee. To truly perform at your best, you need to give your brain the right fuel! Here are six easy, sciencebacked eating tips to keep you focused, energised, and ready to ace your next exam.



#### Don't skip lunch

Skipping meals can leave you feeling sluggish and distracted. A nutritious lunch with a mix of lean protein (like chicken or tofu), whole grains, and plenty of veggies will help keep your brain sharp and energised for the afternoon.



#### End the day with a light dinner

Avoid heavy, greasy foods before bed. Opt for a light, easy-to-digest dinner like grilled fish or a vegetable stir-fry. This helps you sleep better and ensures you wake up refreshed and ready to study.



By following these simple tips, you'll keep your brain powered up and ready to tackle any challenge that comes your way. Happy studying!



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# Eating tips for peak performance in sport and play

Whether you're hitting the field, court, pitch, pool or gym, eating the right foods can be the secret weapon that takes your performance to the next level. Here are six essential eating tips to fuel your body for peak performance and recovery!



Eat a balanced meal 2-3 hours before your game or workout. Focus on carbohydrates like whole grains or fruit, combined with some lean protein (think chicken, tofu, or eggs). This mix will give you the energy to power through the game without feeling sluggish.



#### Snack smart during breaks

During long training

sessions or matches, grab a light snack that includes both carbs and protein. A banana with peanut butter, or a handful of mixed nuts, can provide quick energy to keep you going strong.



#### Stay hydrated

Dehydration is one of the fastest ways to slow down your performance. Drink water regularly before, during, and after physical activity. For intense workouts or long games, sports drinks with electrolytes can help replace lost minerals and keep you feeling sharp.



option.

#### Post-game recovery is key

After exercise, your muscles need to recover. Within 30 minutes, have a snack or meal that includes both protein (to rebuild muscles) and carbs (to refuel). A smoothie with protein powder, fruit, and oats is a great



#### it needs to perform at its best. Eat for energy,

not for cravings

Don't skip

breakfast

A solid breakfast can make all the

difference in your energy levels for

the day. Opt for a whole-grain cereal

or toast, paired with protein like eggs

or yogurt, to give your body the fuel

It's tempting to grab junk food after a game or training, but focus on whole foods instead. Healthy fats from avocado or nuts, lean proteins, and complex carbs will keep your energy levels steady and help you

> recover faster, rather than leaving you feeling sluggish.



Eating well isn't just about what you eat; it's about when you eat. Make these tips part of your routine to boost your sport and play performance, and watch your skills improve!

# 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.

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



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.

### 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.



Visit Nutrition Australia's great recipe section available at

nutritionaustralia.org/category/recipes/



## 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:

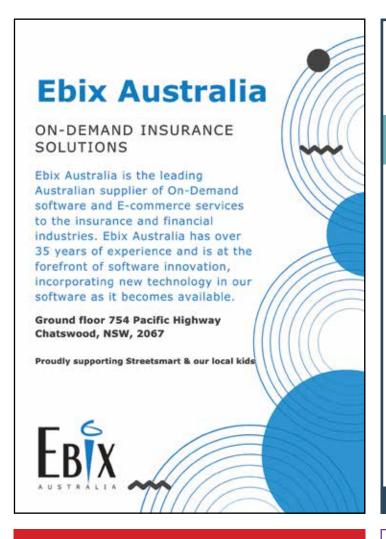
- vegetables and legumes
- fruits
- grains

#### 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 consumer 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.





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Celebrating the qualities that make everyone around you different can shift the focus from appearance to capability. Beauty goes beyond physical appearance. It includes kindness, resilience, intelligence, and compassion. Focus on developing and showcasing these qualities, and build a support system of friends and influencers who promote body positivity.

# Tips to staying #hodypositive

# Celebrate diversity:

Recognise that beauty comes in all shapes, sizes, and colours. Embrace and appreciate the uniqueness of yourself and others.

# Social media detox:

Limit exposure to unrealistic beauty standards on social media. Follow accounts that promote body positivity and diversity.

# Focus on health, not appearance:

Shift the focus from looks to overall well-being. Prioritise healthy habits like exercise, balanced nutrition, and sufficient sleep for how they make you feel, not just look.



Compliment yourself daily. Acknowledge your strengths, achievements, and unique qualities.





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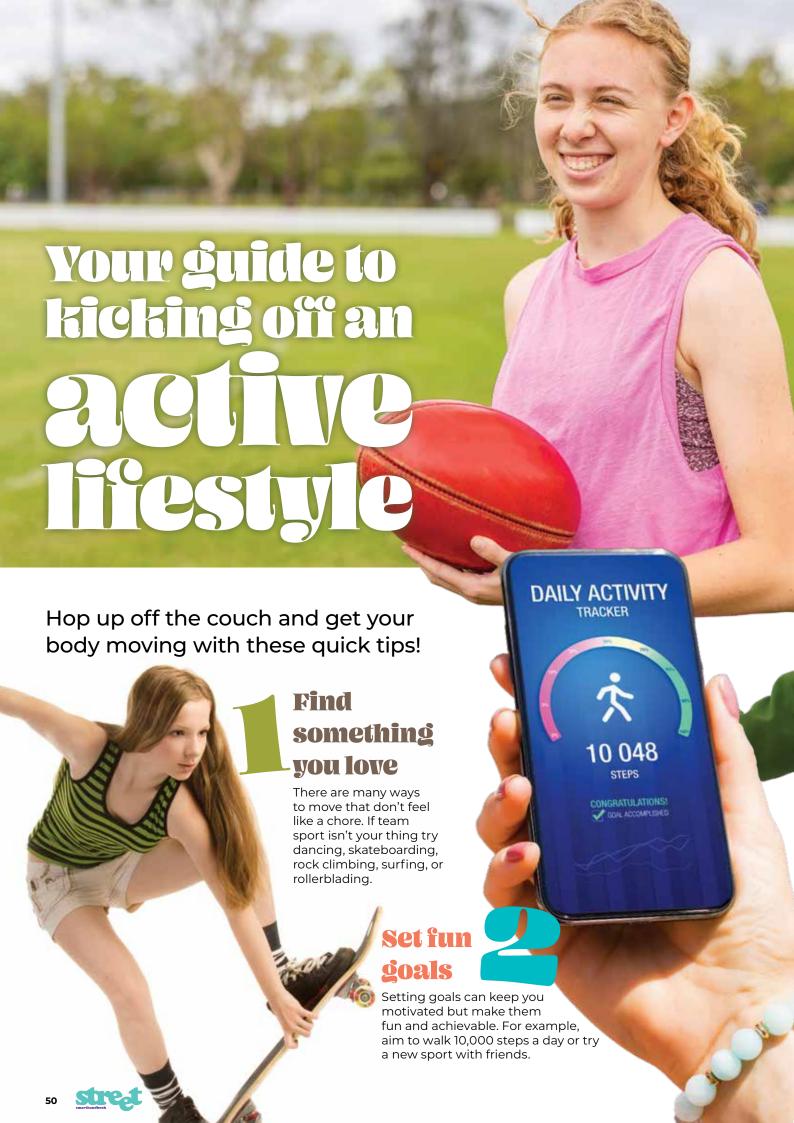
Being active is not just about hitting the gym or playing team sports—it's about finding something fun that keeps your body moving!

A good goal is at least 60 minutes of exercise a day that makes the heart beat faster.

This can be organised sport or training combined with informal activities incidental exercise spread out across the whole day.

Struggling for motivation to get started? Grab your mates, find your favourite activities, and get moving!

Your body (and mind) will thank you.









## 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



For more information, to find your nearest headspace centre or for online and telephone support, visit 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 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.



## Support services

These organisations provide information for young people and their parents and carers who may need support. They provide excellent resources, stories from people with lived experience, and information to guide better mental health in young people. Some also offer counselling and direct services.





www.13yarn.org.au

Confidential one-on-one yarning opportunity for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. Speak with a Lifeline-trained Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.



1300 22 4636

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.



bullyingnoway.gov.au

This website provides information, resources and support services for young children, students, parents and teachers on a range of bullying issues and related matters.



1800 33 4673

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.



1800 650 890

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

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.





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.



1800 953 390

lifestart.org.au

Lifestart supports young people living with a disability. It also helps communities to become more inclusive. This organisation is a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme provider offering flexible, person-centred support.



myan.org.au

Multicultural Youth Advisory Network engages young people from around Australia from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Find out more about its work including the National Youth Ambassadors Network by visiting myan.org.au where you can be connected to your local state body.



1800 184 527

qlife.org.au

QLife provides anonymous and free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral for people in Australia wanting to talk about sexuality, identify, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships.





This website is designed for Australian parents, teachers and carers. It provides up-to-date, evidence-based, scientifically validated information about raising children up to 18 years and tips for parents and carers to look after themselves.



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. Life isn't always easy, but these tips can help make it easier for you to cope.

#### Put pen to paper

Get it all out of your head. Jotting down your feelings can help you work out what might be troubling you and give you ideas on how to improve things.

## Look at the big picture

When you're going through a stressful situation, try asking yourself 'How important is this?' and 'Will I remember this issue in five years?'

#### Talk it out

While it can be hard to open up, sometimes the best way to deal with a problem is to share it. Whether you talk to your best friend, your family or even a peer worker, two brains are always better than one.

## Show some self-love

Making time to do the things you love is a great way to help yourself feel better. Try going for a walk, spending the day at the beach, or booking yourself in for a popcorn and movie session.

Life doesn't always go as planned.

That's why there's ReachOut

– a safe online place to chat
anonymously, get support and
feel better.

Learn more at ReachOut.click/coping-with-the-hard-stuff

## Focus on the positives

If you're having some bad luck, it can be easy to feel hard done by. Instead of letting negativity take over, find at least one positive thing about the situation, and try to focus on that.

# Tips for

coping

with the

hard stuff



