



Connecting to Australian community

Building connections with people in the area you live in will assist you to understand Australian culture, forge new friendships and will contribute towards you feeling a sense of belonging in your new community.



Explore your local community centres

In most local areas in Australia, you will find community centres run by the local council. Community centres are designed to build social connections and prevent exclusion or loneliness within the community. As non-profit organisations they offer free groups, classes and social events for everyone in the respective local community. Community centres also serve as a public information service where you can seek general information or important updates regarding local events and news from your neighbourhood.

Libraries are another important service provided by local councils that in addition to providing access to reading materials and information also offer community services for its local members such as community meeting rooms, convening interest groups and providing a community notice board with event updates.

Social media groups

Social media provides a platform for old friends or family to connect and can also provide opportunities to forge new friendships and interests. You could consider joining a social media group based on your interests such as running, reading and cooking, or look for a social group available in your local area. Alternatively, neighbourhood groups that are on social media are a great place to seek advice on a variety of local issues. For example, you could ask for recommendations for a tradesperson like a plumber or what day the rubbish bins are collected in your area and members of the group will provide you with advice or a suggestion to your enquiry. Some of the group members might post about a garage sale or a picnic they are organising in a park nearby which is a great way to stay posted about local events and important updates in your neighbourhood.

Tip: The [Australian e Safety Commission](#) website provides advice and tips on keeping you and your family safe online.

Find a new hobby

Exploring new interests and starting a new hobby can be a great way to meet new people. Meeting over a joint activity can ease building a connection and there are some popular online platforms which organise events and groups based on common interests. For example, Facebook also offers groups focused on shared interests and there are apps dedicated specifically for meeting new people and participating in a specific activity. [Classbento](#) or [weteachme.com](#) are examples platforms which list available workshops or classes in your local area across a variety of areas such as art, cooking, sport and craft. Participation in these activities may require a payment that usually you will need to make at the time of registration.

Other platforms you might consider using is [eventbrite](#) or [Meetup](#) which are examples of platforms which offer a variety of groups and events. Most of the groups dedicated to meeting new people are free of charge or donation based. Other groups offering workshop style events or ones that focus on professional networking, might require payment to join.



Tip: When signing up for a platform or an app ensure that it is safe. Find out what you can including reading any reviews first and don't make any payments until you confirm it is a valid platform or event. Never provide your banking details to an unknown provider.



Volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to make new connections, learn new skills and give back to the community. In Australia there is a wide range of volunteering opportunities available for e.g. assisting in land conservation activities, supporting animal shelters, helping at sporting activities, and fund raising.

National volunteering organisations in Australia promote and advocate for volunteers. You can start by searching for a role through national volunteering organisations that will suit your interests, purpose and motivation. The links below will help you to start identifying what opportunities are available in your state or territory.

- [Volunteering Australia](#) – here you can find all necessary information about current volunteering events, news and research.
- [GoVolunteer](#) – this platform provides information on available volunteering vacancies.

Introduce yourself to your neighbours

Australians are usually quite open to meeting their neighbours. You might connect with them by introducing yourself and simply saying hello and starting some small talk. Knowing your neighbours will build a feeling of connection and a sense of belonging in your new home in Australia.

