

GETTING MARRIED

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A romantic couple in wedding attire embracing outdoors at sunset. The woman is wearing a white lace dress and a tiara, and the man is wearing a white suit. They are looking at each other and smiling. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with string lights and trees.

CELEBRATING LOVE

Love. It's the best type of human emotion – a language we can all understand and a feeling we all hope to experience, in some capacity. So now that you're about to be married (congrats!), there's a few things you need to think about.

THE BIG DAY

It's a day you've probably dreamt about – or at least given some serious thought to – your wedding day. Whether you want a big white dress or flashy tuxedo, a beachside ceremony or a quiet celebration signing the marriage certificate, there's a lot to think about when it comes to getting married.

So where do you start?

With a plan! Including a budget and a checklist of everything you need to do, before you say 'I do'. Think about what your ideal wedding day looks like:

-  Where and when would you like to tie the knot?
-  Do you want to be married in a church by a priest or by a celebrant?
-  How many people do you want to be there?
-  How much will suppliers, like a florist, cost?

You may want to consider these points before telling everyone your plans, just in case they change.

Remember, the day is about celebrating you and your partner. Wedding planning can be stressful but it's also one of the biggest moments in your life – so take a breath and enjoy the ride.

If you need extra support, there are several helpful contacts listed [later](#) in this LifeGuide.



WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

Once you've decided on what you want your wedding day to look like, it's time for the fun part: making it happen.

Some of the things you'll need to consider may include:

- Accommodation
- Hair and make-up
- Cake
- Invitations
- Transport
- Photography and video
- Catering
- Rings
- Celebrants
- Venue
- Church
- Reception
- Dress and accessories
- Music
- Entertainment
- Wedding planner
- Flowers
- Suits
- Gifts
- Honeymoon

There'll also be some more technical things to think about – like providing proof of identification if you're planning to be married by a celebrant or a civil servant. Your celebrant will submit your marriage paperwork to the registry office once you're married, too. But you'll have to apply for a standard or commemorative marriage certificate to keep.

If your ceremony is in a church, speak to your local faith leader and see if there are any religious requirements for you or your partner prior to your big day.

Another big decision is your name. Will you keep yours, take theirs or combine them both? It's up to you and your partner!

TIP Don't Forget!

Lodge a 'notice of intended marriage' no later than a month before your wedding date. This is a legal requirement and needs to be done with the person who'll be performing your ceremony.

You can download a form at www.ag.gov.au

For more information about registering a wedding in your state, try the below links.

- [South Australia](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

THE COSTS

Whether your wedding is big or small, traditional or modern – knowing how you and your partner will pay for yours, and if you'll have any financial help, is important.

Establishing a budget together is a good way to do this and can help keep your savings on track. Set up a spreadsheet or create a physical budget planner to start writing down all your expenses.

There's more on managing your finances on [page 4](#) of this LifeGuide.

If you're planning a honeymoon – whether you're dreaming of a bungalow in the Bahamas or camping in outback Queensland - it's a good idea to allocate some additional money for things like flights, accommodation and eating out to ensure your plans go off without a hitch.



Some cost-related decisions you might need to consider include:

- Do you want to throw an engagement party?
- How much will you spend on wedding rings?
- Will you have a Hens or Bucks night?
- Will you pay for your bridal party's outfits, or will they?

MARRIAGE

It's a big commitment, marriage, but an exciting one that symbolises the start of a lifelong journey together.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Before you exchange vows make sure you're on the same page (about most things) as your significant other.

A few things you might like to discuss before your wedding include:

- What does the future look like for you both?
- What are your goals and ambitions?
- Where will you live?
- How will you pay for your life together?
- Do you want children? Or pets?
- How will you share domestic duties?
- Who will pay the bills?

What's important in a relationship will differ from person to person. So, if there are any other important topics you think are worth talking about, now's the time to bring them up.

TIP

If you have children from previous relationships, talk about what this means for your marriage and how your family dynamic will work for everyone.

If you need extra support, visit www.stepfamily.org.au

You'll also find information and contact details for emotional support and practical assistance at the [end](#) of this LifeGuide.



YOUR FINANCES

As you start your life together, it's important to understand how your finances work – both together and individually.

If you or your partner earn more than the other, will one of you pay a greater portion for groceries or rent? Or will you share the cost evenly? Have you set-up a shared bank account? Who will look after your day-to-day budget? There's no right or wrong answers but discuss what works for you.

A good rule of thumb is to set aside a certain amount from each pay packet. If you need a hand doing this, ANZ's estimating tools are a great way to break down and categorising your spending.

These resources include:

- [Budget planner](#)
- [Savings goals calculator](#)
- [Home loan deposit calculator](#)
- [Borrowing calculator](#)

The government's [MoneySmart](#) resource has a dedicated budget planning section, too.



Some other things you might consider include:

- How will you split the costs of everyday items, such as groceries and bills?
- Will you have a joint savings account?
- How will you make major financial decisions?
- Do either of you have any outstanding debts?
- Should you link your credit cards?
- Are there any costs or special financial considerations from previous relationships?
- Will you need insurance (and what type)?
- Do you need a will?
- How can you legally minimise your tax?

If your situation is a little more complex you may want to book in with a financial expert like a planner or accountant. They can help ensure your financial security and inform you about any benefits, such as potential tax savings.

It can also be a good idea to discuss your short and longer-term goals.

At the moment, the focus is on your wedding and honeymoon, but as you set about creating a life together, your priorities will likely change.

A new marriage will also void a pre-existing will, so if you or your partner have one, you'll need to make it again. This can be a good time to appoint a [Power of Attorney](#) too.

SAVING FOR THE WEDDING

Cash or term deposit account

For short-term savings plans, like your wedding, it can be a smart idea to open a cash or term deposit account with a good interest rate. This means your money is relatively secured and serviced by an agreed rate of return. Make sure you consider any fees, charges, and the likely rate of inflation before committing though, so you can estimate how much you will save.

Cash management account

Another option could be a [cash management account](#), which typically offer a higher interest rate than regular bank savings accounts. These accounts allow you to deposit money as you receive it, but it can still be withdrawn if needed.

Term deposit

Or you could try 'locking' your money away in a [term deposit account](#). These accounts have a fixed period with a fixed interest rate and generally earn a higher rate of interest.

Personal loan

A [personal loan](#) (with a good interest rate) may also be an option.

SAVING FOR LATER IN LIFE

Want the financial freedom to jet-off on a spur-of-the-moment holiday? Or just the security to pay for something unexpected?

Whatever your reason, making sure you have some kind of savings is important at every stage in life – whether you're newly married or about to retire. For many people, bigger dreams like buying a home or starting a family need to be planned and budgeted for. For more information on how to save for these milestones, check out our LifeGuide's on [Saving for Your First Home](#) and [Having a Baby](#).

TIP

Establish a set budget and savings plan to help stay on track.

Speaking to a financial expert and habits like putting away a certain amount of your earnings each payday can also contribute to your overall savings goals.

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Investing can be a good way to save, and make, money. But things like the share market can also be tricky to navigate. It's important to consider what, where and how you plan to invest your money and the amount of time you have available.

Think about how and when you'd like to achieve your money-related goals – such as buying a home, starting a family or travelling. Will spending money on one affect the other? Again, there's no right or wrong way but understanding what's important to you and your partner is key.

Other things to consider include:

- What type of investment are you opting for?
- What industry is your investment in? And how are they performing?
- What timeframe do you ideally want to invest for? Is there anything that could impact this?
- How volatile/safe is the investment?
- Have you got expert advice on how to best invest your money?
- Is it worth borrowing against your home or getting a margin loan?

Before you invest in anything it's a good idea to speak with a qualified financial planner who can give advice that's best suited to you. More information on getting a financial planner can be found below.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

Manage debt

It might not be possible to pay off everything, but it's a good idea to have a clear pay-back plan and understand how long you will be in debt. If you have multiple debts, see if you can combine them under one personal loan and at a lower interest rate. You may be able to do this via your mortgage.

Refinance or lock in a good home loan interest rate

With Australia's housing market undergoing a major shift in recent years, locking in a good interest rate on your home loan can help save money.

Put a limit on your credit cards

Don't fall into the trap of spending outside your means. Put a cap on your credit card limit (or cancel it, if you don't need it!)

Stick to your budget

It may sound simple but sticking to your budget is one of the best things you can do to keep your finances on track.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

If money isn't your thing, don't fret – there's people who can help (and they actually enjoy it). Seeking professional advice on your finances is a smart move and can help lay some strong foundations for your marriage.

ACCOUNTANTS

An accountant is someone who is a registered tax agent and can help you with your yearly tax return. But they can't give you financial advice unless they're licensed by ASIC to do so. If you're in the market for an accountant, make sure you find someone who is reliable, trustworthy and accredited. Get a friend to recommend someone or try the industry bodies below:

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Australia/New Zealand

www.charteredaccountantsanz.com

1300 137 322

Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) Australia

www.cpaaustralia.com.au

1300 737 373

Institute of Public Accountants (IPA)

www.publicaccountants.org.au

1800 625 625

You should also consider:

- Is the accountant registered with one of the professional bodies listed above?
- What are the fees (and how will you be charged)?
- Does the accountant have experience with your specific needs?
- Will they give you a letter of engagement and provide any advice in writing?

FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Figuring out your finances can be a big job, especially when there's more than one person to consider. That's where engaging a financial planner might help. A financial planner is someone who's qualified to advise you on your money and what you should do with it. They'll take into account your income, goals, lifestyle and circumstances and help create a plan that works for you.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC)'s consumer website [MoneySmart](http://www.money-smart.gov.au) is a great place to start if you're looking for a planner or other financial resources.

ANZ FINANCIAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

If you're looking for some helpful insights, tips or tools then check out the ANZ Financial Wellbeing program – a free online resource designed to help you become better with your money. Complete modules at your own pace, regardless of who you bank with, or sign up for a 6-week challenge and receive helpful information straight to your inbox.

Read more about how we can help boost the power of your finances at anz.com.au/financialwellbeing

MORE HELP

Remember, whatever your situation, you're never alone.
If you need help or support, visit:

Services Australia

Services Australia is a Federal Government department with information for families on a range of topics, including relationship changes and financial assistance.

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

ANZ Financial Wellbeing

The ANZ Financial Wellbeing site has lots of resources for people at all stages of life.

www.anz.com.au/personal/financial-wellbeing

Relationships Australia

Relationships Australia helps individuals, families and communities 1300 364 277

relationships.org.au

Mensline

Call 1300 789 978 for support for men.

mensline.org.au

Department of Social Services

Department of Social Services provides access to resources including housing and counselling and support for Indigenous Australians.

www.dss.gov.au

Family Relationships

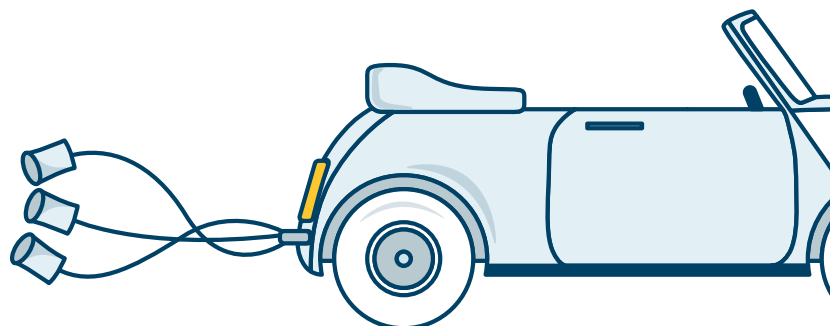
Family Relationships is a Federal Government initiative designed to foster relationships.

www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Relationship Matters

Relationship Matters is a not-for-profit counselling and mediation service that you can visit online or 1300 543 396

www.relationshipmatters.com.au





ABOUT LIFEGUIDES

ANZ has a proud history of helping customers across Australia and New Zealand, especially in times of change. Through these LifeGuides, ANZ is furthering its commitment to the broader community by providing general resources and useful information about key life moments – helping make them a little easier on you.

Important Information: The information set out above is general in nature and has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. By providing this information ANZ does not intend to provide any advice about your employment rights, any financial advice or other advice or recommendations. You should seek independent employment, financial, legal, tax and other relevant advice having regard to your particular circumstances.

