

## **SAMPLE: Housemate Advertisement**

***Sample 1: Could be used in Domain rental or similar context requiring succinct advertisements***

### **House sharing opportunity – provide assistance in lieu of rent**

Reduced rent in (location) + \$250 p/w for personal care and household help to young woman who uses wheelchair. Mainly weekends. Ideal 4 Phd student / flexible worker. Need drivers' license and excellent English.

***Sample 2: Could be used in house sharing websites or similar where there is more space***

### **House sharing opportunity – provide assistance in lieu of rent**

Provide assistance with personal and household tasks for young female professional with physical disability in full time employment. Significantly reduced rent in sunny 3 bedroom unit in (location) plus wage for assistance on weekends and other times by negotiation. Suit female Phd student or person who works flexibly. Person needs to have a positive attitude, be flexible, be available throughout 2012/13 and have a current driving license. Excellent English essential

For more information: (email or other contact details)

## **When people have responded to the advertisement, they are sent the following email:**

Hi

### **About me**

I'm a (insert if relevant) year old male/female and have just moved to (location).

I'm a bit of an idealistic dreamer and like to be around like minded people who care about issues. I'm open-minded with eclectic friends and I think I'm able to find a commonality with most people.

I love live music, 'hanging' with friends for a drink and chat, reading, swimming or just chilling with a DVD.

Oh yeah I have a physical disability (cerebral palsy) including using a power wheelchair but I see it more as an irritation and refuse to be defined by it. My disability is just one part of my full life.

### **About the job**

Essentially, I need assistance on the weekends with personal care, meal preparation and driving in a flexible manner because my plans are likely to be spontaneous. (I will give you as much notice as

possible of my plans, and am willing to fit in with your plans too – it's all about communication and a good relationship). You will be paid for this support.

The free rent and bills are in return for flexibility in ad hoc assistance and driving at other times.

During the week, I will mainly be assisted by agency staff on a rostered basis but the opportunity exists for you to provide some of this assistance if it suits your lifestyle. Of particular interest may be assistance at bedtime (at least 11pm during the week).

(Location) disability taxis are rather problematic so the ability to drive me in my car would be a real bonus (especially in the colder weather). In return, you can use my car for your own use in (location).

### **About the place**

I live in a modern sunny 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom unit in (location), walking distance from the CBD. The other housemate is a young woman recently moved to (location) for work. Your room is unfurnished with a built in wardrobe.

### **Salary and conditions**

You will receive rent free accommodation plus a salary of approx \$250 per week (for weekend support). Training and support will be provided in the personal care work until you feel confident. No prior experience essential.

I am happy to negotiate the specifics of the 'contract' with the successful applicant, as this really needs to work for both us. I do need you to commit to stay throughout 2012/13.

### **What next?**

If you are still interested, please write me an email letting me know about yourself and how this position fits your lifestyle and any questions you have. CVs are not important here – It's more about you and whether I think we will 'click'. We will need to meet a few times so we can decide if this will work for both of us.

## **Contract**

### **Type of environment I'd like to create**

I would like to create a relationship where we are respectful of each other and aware of our interdependence. It is a work situation, but I hope it can be characterised by 'give and take' rather than the filling out of timesheets. Communication is crucial here; I think it's important that we are as open and honest with each other as possible to ensure this works for both of us.

### **I will**

- pay your share of household rent and bills
- give you as much notice as possible of my intended plans, and am happy to make small adjustments for mutual convenience (mostly around the timing of our respective events)

### **What I'd like you to do**

- Paid support: I would like you to assist me with personal care on Friday evenings (after work), Saturday and Sunday. This will involve assisting me in the bathroom at home or work, help me with showering and dressing, basic meal preparation and eating and other tasks that assist me to enjoy an active lifestyle.
  - You will be paid for 2 hours on Friday, 4.5 hours on Saturday and 4.5 hours on Sunday.
  - Should you do additional shifts on a back-up basis, you will be paid for these.
  - Support in return for rent-free accommodation

### **In addition, I would like you to assist me with the following tasks**

- Assistance in the bathroom at other times when you are available
- Driving me as agreed including to and from work in the rain and colder weather, to and from personal arrangements as negotiated. In return, you are free to use my car for personal use – see below
- Laundry approx. twice per week as well as soaking, spraying stains as required and washing my sheets and towels
- Assisting in keeping the flat clean which includes cleaning my bedroom and bathroom and sharing the cleaning of the common areas
- Assistance with other tasks that enable me to enjoy an active lifestyle
- Assisting with small personal administration including banking mail and typing as agreed.

### **Use of car**

When you give me a lift, you are free to use my car in (location) as you require. I will pay for petrol generally, but I would like you to pay for petrol in relation to your own use.

### **Review**

I hope we can openly discuss issues as they arise. I would also like to have a meeting about 3-4 weeks after you start to make sure this is working for both of us and to cooperatively solve any issues that we may have.

### **Notice**

I have an expectation that you will work with me until Christmas 2013. If you need to leave earlier than this, please give me the maximum notice possible, at least one month.

Looking forward to a productive and enjoyable relationship,

Name

Date



W: [www.resourcingfamilies.org.au](http://www.resourcingfamilies.org.au)

P: 9869 7753 or 1800 774 764 (free call outside metro areas)

E: [info@resourcingfamilies.org.au](mailto:info@resourcingfamilies.org.au)