



When is best to leave nest

SUSIE O'BRIEN

PARENTS need to declare "Independence Day" on adult children and turf them out of the family nest by age 20.

Australian life skills coach Michele Jones thinks a failure to "set a date for kids to vacate the premises" can lead to major problems later on.

Ms Jones said a growing number of parents sought professional help in order to manage the process of convincing their adult children to leave home. She said children should be living independently by 20.

"Parents convince themselves the child staying at home longer will help them

save for the purchase of their own home, some even going as far as building a granny flat," she said.

"In reality, parents are simply sending the message to their child that they are not resourceful or capable to live out in the world on their own and they won't be successful enough to afford a house without their help.

"A recent Household, Income and Labour Dynamics survey of 17,000 Australians

found those who left home after the age of 25 earned \$6000 less than those who fled the nest earlier.

"Wealth is also impacted, with figures estimating men end up \$20,779 worse off and women

\$95,676 leading to ... welfare benefit blowouts by 2020."

Her warning comes as nearly one in four people aged between 20 and 34 continue to live in the parental home.

Ms Jones said parents cited issues such as general cost of living, university fees and safety concerns as reasons why children didn't leave home.



RIGHT ON TIME: Eleni and Darko Szemeti wave goodbye to 19-year-old daughter Anthea Szemeti, who, according to experts, is the right age to leave home.

Picture: IAN CURRIE