



Happy 20th, now get out of the house

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PARENTS need to declare "Independence Day" on their 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 down the track.

Ms Jones said a growing number of parents sought professional help to manage the process of convincing their adult children to leave home.

She said children should be living independently by the age of 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 to accommodate their child, keeping them



SENDING THE MESSAGE TO THEIR CHILD THEY ARE NOT RESOURCEFUL OR CAPABLE

Michele Jones

safe and tending to their every need," she said.

"In reality, parents are simply sending the message to their child 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 further welfare benefit blowouts by 2020."

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

Ms Jones said parents cited issues such as general cost of living, university fees, safety concerns and society-based fears as reasons why their children did not leave home.

Multigenerational Family Living, a new book by University of NSW academics Edgar Liu and Hazel Easthope, said financial issues were the main reason children did not leave home.

However, there could be an upside, with some adult children helping to pay off their parents' mortgages, they say in the book.