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To: sitters@happyhousesitters.com.au
Cc: Operations
Subject: House Sitting

We have been house sitting through Happy House Sitters for 4 years now and have enjoyed every second of it. We started out in fairly large debt (10k -credit card) and rental issues with one really old car that was constantly breaking down and other residual debt. "We had our ass hanging out of our pants!" for about 1 year after we began sitting, but the improvements were gradual and then we began to start saving only about 2 years ago, so really, the savings can be accomplished in a very short time-frame if you're disciplined and aren't tempted to spend it! We saved one full salary (went straight into an online savings account) and lived off the other.

We are in the process of purchasing a first home and are looking at the moment. We have been close to exchanging four times in the last 12 months! But, unfortunately, we have had issues with real-estates-gazumping/council approvals x2/mortgage insurers (didn't like the security- a "shed!"). The challenge is not at all financial, but with other issues that are inherent in purchasing properties. I just can't believe how hard it is to buy a home! So, I can only imagine how first home buyers feel when they actually have the financial challenge as well as all the other challenges! But all that's another story!!

We also have plans to purchase a second investment property September-ish this year. We have saved enough money right now to enable us to purchase a decent home between 450-500K.

We are 5-6 months away from completely owning two decent vehicles (a Holden Monaro and a Holden SV8), we have done that in a space of about 2.5 years (half the time of the loan) and outside of the car loans we have absolutely no debt. We own furniture (in storage) and also have our own pets (a dog and a cat, 4 horses, 3 sheep) and we plan on buying acreage to live halfway through next year.

There is absolutely no chance we would have had the cars even half paid, let alone saved a substantial deposit if we hadn't started housesitting.

There is one draw-back - and that is, it's harder to get out of than into! We have bookings almost all the way through this year, and have had to turn down a few referred/repeat sits which we don't like doing.

We have been able to take our pets with us to the vast majority of sits and if we can't, we actually have ex-housesits who are happy to mind either or both pets if needed.

Danielle [Arrowsmith](#)