

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Australian Moving Season is Underway – Aussies Set to Spend More Than \$2 Billion in Super Summer of Moves

It's officially 'moving season' down under and this season is tipped to be bigger than usual as rising rates, rents, power bills and cost of living pressures force more than a million Australians out of their home.

Typically around two-thirds (66%) of all moves take place between October and March as more than 1.5 million Australians move into new homes purchased during the spring selling season and renters move around as leases start and end.

According to moving data from <u>Muval</u>, one of Australia's leading online removalist booking platforms, removalist enquiries are trending up and it's not just because of 'moving season'. While the <u>2022 Muval Index</u> showed a desire to live in a better home or location was the key reason Australians moved, a rise in the cost of living was increasing Australians' desire to move.

"Right across Australia we're seeing rents, rates, power bills and general cost of living rising rapidly, and this is causing many to re-evaluate where they live. We know that cost of living increases are already behind a substantial number of moves and this is only going to grow as we head into the new year and the full impact of rate rises hits home. While January is traditionally our biggest month, we're expecting January, February and March to be much bigger than usual, particularly as we start to see landlords passing rate rises onto renters as their leases come to an end," Muval CEO James Morrell said.

With November one of the busiest months for removalist enquiries, Muval has pinpointed December 16 and January 23 as the biggest moving days on the removalist calendar as Australians aim to settle into their new home before Christmas or before school starts.

"Our advice to Australians this moving season is to be organised and get in early to avoid a costly and stressful last-minute rush. We work with Australia's most reputable removalists and they are telling us that their trucks are starting to fill up, with some already fully booked into January and February," James said.

With the average move costing \$3000 (approx. \$1800 for singles and \$4000 for large house moves) including removalists, boxes and other ancillary costs, the super summer of moving is expected to cost more than \$2 billion as an estimated 700,000 households relocate for more affordable housing or a better lifestyle.

Muval, a one-stop-shop for moving services which helps Australians navigate all aspects of the moving cycle from packing boxes, reputable removalists and removals insurance at one end to making sure the power and wifi is connected at the other, has appointed Australia's first official moving ambassador, former Masterchef contestant, Ch 7 presenter, and one of Australia's most experienced movers, Alana Lowes, to help take the stress out of moving during this mega 'moving season'.

"As Australia's first moving ambassador and Muval's moving guru, I'm looking forward to sharing lots of tips and tricks to make moving smoother and simpler for Aussies who are packing up and relocating for work, school, or a better, more affordable life during this busy 'moving season'. After more than half a dozen moves up and down the east coast, I know how hard moving can be when you don't have the right help, so I'll be sharing some hacks to take the stress out of moving, save money when moving, move more sustainably, even how to move in the rain, as well as what to do (and what not to do) to make moving a more enjoyable experience," Alana said.

Here are Alana's top tips to save money when moving house:

- 1. <u>Time is money:</u> Removalists usually charge between \$60-\$90 per half hour so if there is something you can do to save the removalists time, it will also save you money. You can save hundreds by disassembling beds yourself, bundling loose items together to save multiple trips, bringing items to the front of the house or out to the truck, having things clearly labelled so removalists know exactly where everything should go, leaving a clear space for removalists to park, opting for a morning move when removalists are likely to have more energy, and even offering them a cool drink and turning the aircon on so they stay refreshed
- 2. <u>Slash bills:</u> Take advantage of a move to implement some simple cost cutting hacks such as lowering the temperature of your hot water for instant savings on your electricity or gas bill, installing ceiling fans which are more economical than air-conditioning, and changing to energy efficient light bulbs (the <u>NSW</u> Government even has an initiative that can help with this)
- 3. <u>Go second hand:</u> Sell or donate unwanted goods so nothing unnecessary is going in the removalist truck and you might even make some money to help with the move. You can also opt for second-hand items in your new home it's better for the environment and your hip pocket
- 4. <u>Be savvy:</u> The removalist industry has moved with the times so it's easy to get quotes and compare prices on platforms like Muval.com.au, which can also help you save hundreds or even thousands on small moves by finding spare space in bigger trucks or tapping into discounted last-minute space in freight travelling interstate

For more on the Muval Index or from Muval's moving guru Alana Lowes, including the ultimate moving guide, visit Muval's <u>Youtube</u> or at <u>muval.com.au</u>

## About Muval

Muval is a free platform that helps people find the best local and interstate removalists in Australia, compare their prices, and book online. Muval.com.au is one of the top ranked moving house platforms in Australia and provides an important service for those looking to save time and money when looking to move house. As people typically enquire about removalists up to 30 days before they move, Muval data, which is based on online searches for removalists, is a proven early indicator of moving trends in Australia, with the University of Queensland recognising the platform as a reliable source for migration forecasts.

Media contact: Christine Allen <a href="mailto:christine@coastalcomms.com.au">christine@coastalcomms.com.au</a> 0405 020 288