Hi mum, I’m back

There’s a subtle difference in moving home and moving ‘out’.

When your friends say they’ve moved ‘out’, it’s safe to assume that they’ve moved away from someone. And usually, it’s their parents.

But moving out of home isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. Stereotypical warnings aside – it’s bloody hard.

With the high cost of tertiary education and the surge in house prices, it’s difficult for young people to move anywhere but back home again.

Independence, being closer to the city or having freedom, whatever the reason, “flying the coop” is like saying goodbye to your childhood.

In my case, I’ve said goodbye more than once.

The first time I moved out, two years ago, I wasn’t intending to move back home again.

But six months with a messy housemate in a half-renovated house was enough for me to return. Six months later I was out again, but this time I made much more serious transition and I was sure it was for good.

Like any other move, there were lots of boxes and lots of hard work. But this time there were apprehensive goodbyes and a strange feeling of finality.

After the honeymoon period when I had broken all my mum’s rules, eating anything I wanted, leaving all the lights on and talking all night on the phone, I was already popping into mum’s for some pampering.

Three months ago, my boyfriend and I decided enough was enough. We wanted to buy our own place and while we were renting that just wasn’t possible.

So we packed up our funky new homeware and our independent lives to live at my family’s house to save, save, save.

For others this wouldn’t have been as easy. Coming back home and eating your words about living the good life isn’t easy. Most parents would have told their children to live in the “real world” and fend for themselves.

But these days, when HECS debts can soar beyond $30,000 and most decent houses cost more than $300,000, living at home longer is the only realistic option.

Being a twenty-something and living at home is sad and even geeky, but it’s the only way for young people to save money.

Yes, it’s possible for young people to move out and get by.

For those who are studying or who want to eventually buy their own place, which rules out many young people, the odds of an affordable lifestyle just aren’t good.

Moving out may mean moving away from your parents, but it doesn’t mean growing up and living like adults.

That’s just too expensive.

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