

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **LOCAL RESIDENTS REAP REWARDS FROM TOWNSVILLE HOMESTAY PROGRAM**

Local residents have the opportunity to benefit directly from next July's inaugural Townsville 400 by joining the Homestay Program for visitors to the City.

Townsville homeowners can reap significant rewards for offering their houses as alternative accommodation as part of the program that is designed on the highly successful model of the Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000 every October.

With tickets for the first Townsville 400 going on sale on Sunday November 16, opportunities for residents are expected to peak.

Townsville Home Stay – launched today – will co-ordinate a private accommodation program for the biggest event ever staged in North Queensland.

Townsville residents will be able to hire out their homes to visiting V8 Supercars supporters for up to \$510 per night, depending on the size and location of the property. There are guarantees that residents homes will be returned as they were left.

V8 Supercars Australia has appointed Barrier Reef Dive Cruise & Travel to officially administer the program, which will include establishing a database of prospective landlords and tenants, completing inspections and taking reservations.

Townsville Home Stay coordinator Maria Chippendale said the program had been modelled from the very successful home stay provided each year at Bathurst where hundreds of residents move out and allow visitors to utilise their properties.

“The home stay program is a wonderful opportunity for the people of Townsville to show their hospitality to visitors, and earn some considerable pocket money while doing so,” Ms Chippendale said.

“As a home stay participant, you can either hire out your entire property, or you can become a home host by offering rooms to visitors.

“The process is easy – you simply have to register online at [www.townsvillehomestay.com.au](http://www.townsvillehomestay.com.au) and we will be in touch to do an assessment of your property.

“Your property will be rated in one of four categories, based on the location and size, and we will then match you with an appropriate group or couple travelling here for the event.”

Under the program landlords will:

- have the option to vacate their home and hire out the entire property, or become a host and rent out rooms in the property
- have the potential to earn between \$230-\$510 per night for a home hire and \$73 per person per night as a home host
- have the final say over who stays at the property
- be responsible for their own insurances on the property

V8 Supercars Townsville 400 Festival Committee Chairman Cr Tony Parsons has recently returned from Bathurst where he saw first-hand the success of their home stay.

“Bathurst really embraces the home stay concept and many home owners have had the same guests stay in their home year after year,” Cr Parsons said.

“Many of the locals use it as a good opportunity to take their annual holiday and by hiring out their home receive a neat financial contribution towards it.

“I urge people in Townsville to look at their options to see how they could benefit from the home stay – whether it’s moving back in with Mum and Dad for the week, or going away on holiday. The opportunity of making on average \$370 per night is worth any short-term inconvenience.”

V8 Supercars Townsville 400 Project Manager Kim Faithfull said:

“There are literally thousands of passionate V8 Supercars supporters who will be needing accommodation in Townsville in July,” Mr Faithfull said.

“These supporters travel around the country to follow their team and this is our chance to show them some North Queensland hospitality.

“With traditional accommodation already almost booked out, the home stay program offers a great alternative for visitors and I’m sure Townsville locals will be more than happy to open their doors.”

To find out more, please visit [www.townsvillehomestay.com.au](http://www.townsvillehomestay.com.au) or call the Townsville Home Stay Hotline 4772 5811.

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