



the facts:  
tips for a healthy headspace



headspace  
National Youth Mental Health Foundation

# get enough sleep

**Getting the right amount of quality sleep can give you more energy, improve concentration, make you less likely to crave snacks that aren't nutritious, and you guessed it, keep a healthy headspace.**

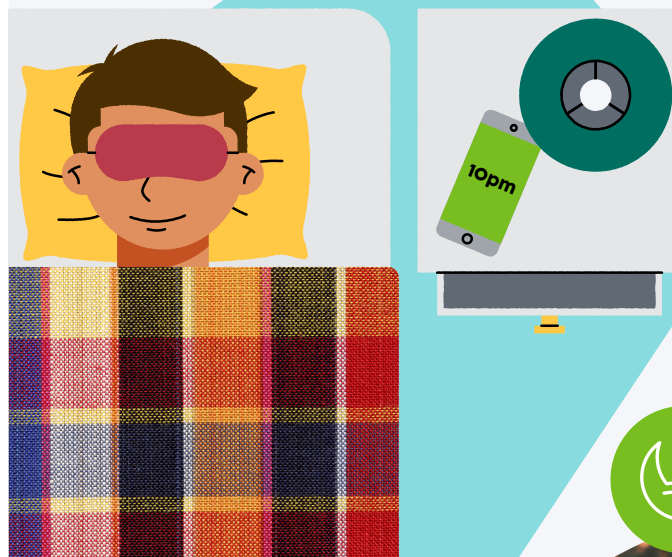
If you're having a tough time, sleeping can be one of the first things that's affected.

Have you noticed when you get good quality sleep it's often easier to manage your emotions? This can help you deal with any stress, including relationships, and work and study difficulties. It can also help reduce the risk of mental health challenges in the future.

## So how much is enough?

If you're aged between 12-17 then 8 to 10 hours sleep is ideal, and 18-64 year olds should try to get 7 to 9 hours, older than 64 should try to get 7 to 8 hours. Keep in mind that different people need slightly different amounts of sleep.

You might not know how much sleep you get, so it can be a good idea to record it in a sleep app or journal and notice whether your sleep impacts things like your mood and energy levels, or anything else you might notice.



Quality sleep  
is like a  
super power!

## Why it might be difficult to get a good night's sleep?

We all experience poor sleep from time to time – exams, job interviews, work stress, relationship concerns can keep us up worrying.

It's common to find it hard to get good quality sleep. It can be impacted by many things like the food you eat, using alcohol or other drugs, feeling worried or anxious, and even using your screen before bed.

The good news is there are things you can do to help you get those quality zzz's.



# So how can we get better sleep?

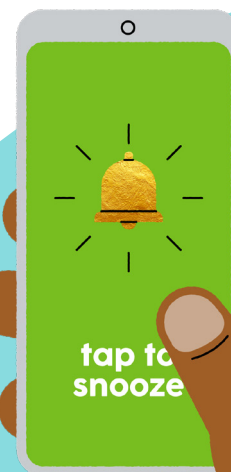
Changing habits can be hard, be kind to yourself while you're trying new things. You don't have to do everything at once, set yourself a small goal, choose something that's easier for you to do, then add other things in later. Achieving your goals can help build your confidence.



For many people, quality sleep can be hard to get, so don't be too tough on yourself as you try different things. You'll get there... you're learning. Be kind to yourself.

- At least an hour before bed, turn off games, YouTube, social media and any notifications. Try a movie, book or watch TV instead (not in the bedroom though!).
- Use the blue light filter on your phone and lower the brightness at night.
- If you find it hard to wind down, try a mindfulness exercise; you might try a mindfulness app.
- Try to sleep the same amount every night. An extra hour, every now and then, is fine – any more can confuse your body clock. Falling asleep one hour earlier is better than sleeping in one hour later.
- If you need to get up during the night, try to avoid turning on bright lights and hop back into bed quickly.

- Avoid caffeine at least six hours before you go to bed.
- Limit the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- If you can, avoid napping during the day.
- Leave your devices outside your bedroom.



## Healthy habits

When you're feeling low or stressed, it's important to put healthy habits in place to give yourself a better chance of coping with life's challenges.

Sleeping well is an important healthy habit, but it's not the only one. Things like staying active, eating well, doing things every day and spending time on your relationships are also important for good mental health.

## Getting support

There are lots of ways to look after your headspace.

Check out [headtohealth.gov.au](https://headtohealth.gov.au), or if you're 12-25 the [headspace website](https://headspace.org.au), for tips on how to look after your mental health.

If you've tried some of these strategies for some time without improving despite your efforts, it's time to reach out to a trusted friend, colleague, family member, Elder, teacher, counsellor, or a health service.

If you or someone you know is going through a tough time, support is available.

Check out [headtohealth.gov.au](https://headtohealth.gov.au) to help find the right service for you. If you're aged 12-25, headspace can support you through our online and phone services or centre support services. For more information visit [headspace.org.au](https://headspace.org.au).



If you need immediate assistance call 000 or to speak to someone urgently, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can also call 13YARN.

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