

Welcome to Queens of Clutter!!

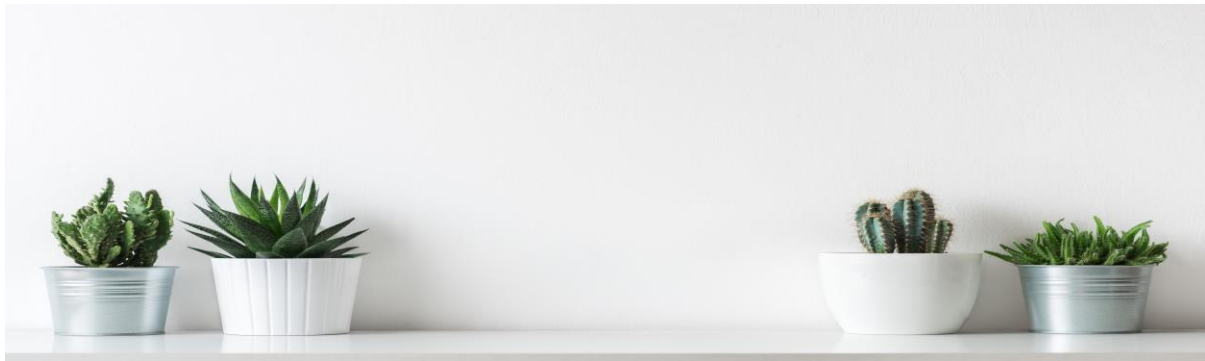
We are Kirrilee, Taryn, Carly, Deanie and Rachel, five mums who love to help others who are overwhelmed with the clutter in their homes. We use what we learnt in our own homes to assist client to reduce excess belongings to create happier and calmer spaces.

Decluttering your space can be cleansing and uplifting, but it can also be emotional, overwhelming, exhausting, and frustrating.

It can be really hard work, especially on your own. Our clients often remark that they would never have achieved so much without our help and support. They say that knowing that we will return for further consultations really helps to keep them on track.

During our appointment we will work with you to choose a space and empty it. Then we sort the items into gift or keep. After this we organise the keep items back into the space in a way that suits your household. Every decision is yours. (So you need to be home.) We are not going to make you throw anything away unless you want to and we will not judge you, even if you want to keep 65 coffee cups! If you are not able to physically help, you can just sit and make decisions, that is fine too.

At the end we are happy to take away donations from the space we sorted with you. (If they fit in our car!)



If you are interested in reducing the chaos in your home, please contact us to make an appointment. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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What Is Your Endgame?

What is it that you want to achieve by the end of this experience? Our goals include -

- ✓ Living in a home that is always ready to receive guests (spontaneous or planned).
- ✓ Having a home that is not stressful to tidy and clean (every item has a home).
- ✓ Eliminating the need for a junk/storage room (converting it into a useful play room or guest room).
- ✓ Having a home that represents our present day family and our future (as opposed to a home crowded with relics of the past and representations of memories).
- ✓ Having room and space for kids to play and not be overwhelmed by their belongings.
- ✓ Having a calm and welcoming home (for ourselves, our family and our friends).

Spend some time envisioning what you want your home to feel like when you inhabit the space. This will provide a strong goal to focus on when the decisions start to get tough.



Is Your Household On The Same Page?

If you live by yourself great! But if you don't, chat to your household about the idea of reducing clutter in the house (watching Marie Kondo's Netflix or Peter Walsh's Space Invaders series together is highly recommended).

Having the other adults in the house on board is a fantastic bonus. However, sometimes they're not keen to get involved and that is okay too. During this process we never declutter someone else's belongings. Often reluctant family members do come on board once they see the transformation in other parts of the house.

Start With Getting Rid Of The Easy Stuff

You don't have to wait until we arrive. (Although it's OK if you do!)

Most homes have layers and layers of belongings, so if you get rid of some stuff before we get there, we can make faster progress. Go for a walk around your house. Is there anything you already know you are willing to part with?

- Pull out anything you know you don't like and get it out of your house straight away.
- Look for things that are not yours and return them.
- Find anything in your house that has never been taken out of the box. If you don't like it or need it, it can possibly be gifted to someone who will use it.

- Start questioning whether your belongings deserve the valuable space they take up in your house. Each time you use something question whether you enjoy having it. Does that lipstick always seem to be the wrong colour? Does that body lotion not feel or smell great? Are you using the old plates you don't like very much whilst the beautiful plates sit in a storage box?
- Put a donation bag in your wardrobe. Every time you look at a piece of clothing that doesn't fit or suit you, put it in the bag.
- Find the toys your kids have grown out of and those couch cushions that Aunty Mabel made you (that you secretly hate). Donate or throw them away now. The less stuff you have when we get to you, the more we will get done.



Decide Where The Purged Items Will Go

SELLING - Selling items can make a bit of pocket money (or make you feel better about getting rid of something you spent a lot of money on). Be aware that selling items can be time consuming and very frustrating (trust us - we've been there!). Consider how much time you are prepared to put into selling items, compared to the money you will receive. It always takes longer to sell something than to give it away for free so it can slow you down.

Considering that most things sell for about a third of what you paid for them and often much less (with some exceptions like LEGO, Tupperware, Thermomix and ENJO). Electronics, clothes, furniture and toys generally sell for a heartbreaking fraction of what you paid for them.

If you are considering selling items, do some research on **Facebook Marketplace**. Search for what you are selling and see what other people are asking for similar items. You will either be pleasantly surprised or decide it's easier to give it away for free! We are happy to show you how to do this. We can also give you some tips on how to effectively advertise your items.

GIFTING/DONATING - We highly recommend joining your **Buy Nothing (your suburb) group on Facebook**. This is a great way to gift items and meet people in your local community. You can of course give everything to the Salvation Army or Vinnies if you are time poor.

When we started decluttering we tried to sell a lot. But we found gifting items makes you feel just as good as selling them, it's much less hassle and the items go to someone who really appreciates them (good karma)!

THROWING AWAY - We all HATE wasting stuff but sometimes it's the only option left. Most of us loathe throwing anything perfectly good in the bin, especially if we paid money for it. There are lots of options for what to do with the belongings you no longer need but it is worth considering the time and effort it takes to rid yourself of excess items versus just getting rid of it. Remember that your local tip will take all sorts of recyclable items that otherwise would go in the bin - electronics, old paint, batteries, white goods, furniture (no tip pass needed).

Consider Each Item You Bring Into Your Home

At some point everything in your house needs to be dealt with. While you embark on this decluttering process, think about what comes into your home. Many of our clients find they become more thoughtful consumers because they realise they have been buying things they don't really need. Many find the sheer volume of the belongings they own to be quite confronting. Others find things they have lost or forgotten they even had.

Think about the people in your life who regularly buy/give you items you don't need. We advise that you let this person know about the change that you want to make to your home and kindly ask that the influx of stuff stops! This can be a real challenge. You may need to have repeated discussions with someone to get the message across. Be kind but firm!

Kirrilee - I loved anything that was free! Then I went through my home and found most of the free items were things I never used. Now I am much more selective about what comes into my house.



Start Sorting Out Your House

When we get to your house we are going to choose (in consultation with you) an area to start (e.g. wardrobe, kitchen, study). It helps us if all the items that belong to that category are in the same room. For example, we often think we have finished organising a client's clothes only to find more of them stashed in storage boxes in other wardrobes, the ironing pile, the clean washing pile, the mending pile in the sewing room, the dress up box, and the dirty washing pile.

We completely understand that this is not always possible, but every bit helps.

One Last Thing Kids are great, . . . however, they do slow the process down. We recommend that you organise to have young children entertained whilst we work with you. If this is not possible - we're mums, we get it.

We hope you can't wait to get started and we can't wait to help you.

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