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## Long haul to home of his own

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Alex Knight is building his first home at Bowden after saving since the age of 15. Picture: RoyVPhotography.

### Tom Bowden

With cost of living pressures and soaring rents, biopharmaceutical process engineer Alex Knight, 24, can see why young people aren't moving out of home.

Mr Knight is building his first home in Bowden. But it's not a goal he's achieved overnight.

Mr Knight first started saving when he was 15, while working at KFC.

He also got help through HomeStart's graduate loan, which he said allowed him to get in the market earlier and buy a home he liked where he wanted to live.

"I always wanted a home – I didn't want an apartment, I wanted a home and in the end I compromised and got a townhouse because the

market was just so competitive," he said.

"I really think it will turn out quite nicely, I just need to be patient."

Set to move in this year, Mr Knight said it had been disheartening watching prices continue to rise as he tried to save. "I don't know how anyone moves out of home these days – it's so rough out there."

HomeStart chief executive Andrew Mills said it was a challenging environment for first homebuyers.

"For those without access to the bank of mum and dad, we provide an opportunity to make their dream a reality," Mr Mills said.