

Knit Your Own: The Great Australian Dream

By Sophia Cai

Make all your dreams come true, with *'The Great Australian Dream'*. Through hard work, and by following the instructions outlined in this knitting pattern, you too can enjoy security, success, and status through home ownership.

Stand out from the crowd, with instructions included to personalise your dream with additions and embellishments including a manicured garden, 1.5 children, a detached granny flat and more. Be the talk of town, and the envy of your neighbours by making your own *Great Australian Dream!*

Disclaimer: This knitting pattern is intended as a guide only, and results may vary.

MATERIAL LIST

- 8ply or DK weight yarn in a variety of colours: a mix of wool, cotton and acrylic are all suitable. For best results and impressions, a mix of wool, angora and cashmere is suggested ('death to acrylic').
- 4 mm and 4.5 mm circular knitting needles – the longer the circumference, the bigger the dream you can make.
- Tapestry needle, stitch markers, scissors for finishing.
- 'Merit' – the belief that economic power is given to people based on individual talent, achievement and worthiness.
- Inherited wealth.

GAUGE

22 stitches x 24 rounds = 10cm, measured after washing

SIZE AND MEASUREMENT

This pattern is designed to fit aspirations of all sizes. It is recommended that the minimum size is three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and one parking spot. To calculate the size that best fits your dream, multiply the number of planned inhabitants by 1.5. For every pet or child, add another 0.5.

CASTING ON

In your preferred cast-on method, start by casting on 180 stitches using the smaller needles. To have an extra fancy dream, the tubular cast on method is recommended.

Join your stitches in the round, and place a stitch marker for BOR (beginning of round). Next, (k1tbl, p1) until end of round, making sure your cast-on stitches aren't twisted.

Continue knitting in a rib (k1tbl, p1) stitch until your dream measures 5cm, or your desired size. You might like to try it on for size as you are knitting, to ensure a good fit.

If your foundation is not stable, there is a greater risk of your dream not holding up over time. It is suggested that you begin your dream with inherited wealth and/or ongoing family support. If you are a millennial, avoid avocado toast.

MAIN BODY

Switching over to the larger knitting needles, continue knitting in the round in a plain stockinette stitch. Increase your stitches by kfb every ten stitches, every third round. At the same time, increase your investment portfolio using your preferred method. Remember that opportunity begets opportunity, just as wealth begets wealth.

As you add more stitches to your dream, notice how your bank balance grows. You may need to hire a good tax accountant.

Continue in pattern until your dream measures 360 stitches (30 rows knitted) or your desired size, making adjustments for interest rate fluctuations. The important thing is to use strategies of negative gearing and/or tax write offs to support the growth of your dream.

You may like to continue knitting for a longer version, or cast off at this point and settle your outstanding accounts.

CASTING OFF

To settle your accounts, cast off knitting loosely by knitting into the first and second stitch. Lift the first knitted stitch over the second, and drop it off the knitting needle. You have now bound off one stitch. Continue this process until only one stitch remains.

Sophia Cai is a curator, writer and knitter based in Narm/Melbourne. This is her first published knitting pattern.

FINISHING AND EXTRAS

Using your scissors, cut the yarn, leaving a tail of 15 cm.

Using a tapestry needle, pull the yarn tail tightly through the remaining stitch on your knitting needle. Secure the yarn tail by weaving it into the backside of your knitted fabric.

EXTRAS

The importance of blocking:

To ensure your dream fits you like a dream, a wet block is essential after you finish knitting. Submerge your dream in a mix of cold water, wool soap and your aspirations. Lay out your dream on a flat surface, and use pins or similar to hold the piece in place. As it dries, it will remain the shape.

Blocking is a good method to hide small errors or blemishes, much like money laundering.

Adding embellishments

To individualize your dream, you can add embellishments such as a manicured lawn, children and pets, a detached granny flat, off-street parking, and more.

Follow the instructions of those who came before you, and model your aspirations after these socially accepted benchmarks.

GLOSSARY

BOR: beginning of round.

family support: also known as the 'Bank of Mum and Dad.' The most common way for millennials to acquire home ownership.

inherited wealth: wealth that is inherited, rather than earned.

investment portfolio: assets that can include home ownership, stocks, bonds and more.

k1: knit one.

k1tbl: knit 1 through back loop

kfb: knit front and back.

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meritocracy: the belief system, largely espoused by white Australian society, that people attain power and money based on their demonstrated abilities and merit.

millennial: class of people who typically can't afford home ownership due to consumption of avocado toast.

negative gearing: a deliberate tax loophole where costs incurred from maintaining a home (including interest) are greater than the income earned. See tax write-off.

p1: purl one

tax write-off: a business expense that can be claimed as a tax deduction. See negative gearing.

tubular cast-on: too complex to explain here, try Youtube.