1. **Attachment to place**

We all develop an attachment to places that are special to us. It may be the place in which they were born and grew up. It may be a place we visited on holidays. It may be somewhere we have always wanted to live. These are all things that influence the choices we make.

1. **Distance from family and friends**

Being close to family and friends is a powerful factor influencing people’s decisions about where to live. Family and friends provide emotional and practical support and meet one of our most basic needs- the need for relationships.

1. **Employment opportunities**

Earning an income to support yourself and your family is an important factor in deciding where to live. For example, many people move to Port Hedland because of jobs in mining.

1. **Affordability (price of living)**

If a person earns more money, they have more options for where to live. Wealthy people can afford to buy or rent housing in the nicer suburbs. The choice of people on lower incomes are limited to areas where housing is relatively cheap or rent is more affordable.

1. **Stage of life**

Where you want to live will likely change throughout your life. When you are young, you live where your parents decide to buy or rent a home. In your 20s, you may live in rented group housing with friends. For older people, access to good healthcare is important. For young families, access to good schools may be important.

1. **Lifestyle**

Different people have different ways that they like to live their lives. Some people choose to live in the country; others find the coastal lifestyle more appealing; some like the buzz of the city. Some people like areas that are diverse, crowded and colorful, while others like places that are quiet, isolated and natural.

1. **Personal safety**

The level of crime in an area can influence someone’s decision to live there. People who can afford to live elsewhere avoid areas with high crime rates.

1. **Environmental factors (includes climate).**

People’s decisions about where they live are influenced by climate and the environment. Some move to cooler places whilst others prefer the heat. Some prefer hills and mountains surrounding cities because of their beauty, mild (average) temperatures and low humidity.

1. **Culture and ethnicity**

New immigrants often settle in suburbs with a community of people from a common cultural or ethnic background. This provides them with a support network that makes settling into their new homeland easier.

1. **Travel time and transport options**

Some people choose to live close to where they work. Others are willing to travel, sometimes over long distances, to live in a place that is more affordable or appealing. Access to public transport is an important factor for people living in large cities with lots of traffic.