

DE INTERNATIONAL

HOMESTAY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

NSW Department of Education (the Department) assists in the accommodation and welfare arrangements for students as requested by parents, who do not have a relative residing in NSW who meets the Department of Home Affairs requirements.

As requested by you, the Department will issue the Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) form to Department of Home Affairs for your child's visa. As such, your child must live in the homestay accommodation and with the homestay carer arranged through the Department.

Homestay accommodation is arranged through independent Homestay Providers who have agreements with the Department to provide such service. Your child will be placed in accommodation that meets the following required standards:

1. The home must be clean and have appropriate furnishings suitable for students up to and including the age of 18 years;
2. The homestay hosts must reside at the homestay premises;
3. Each student is to have as a minimum their own room, bed, desk or if a shared room no more than two persons per room (same gender) each of whom must have separate bed and desk;
4. Students are not to share rooms with host family members and sharing arrangements will only be provided if the parents of the student(s) so request;
5. Rooms assigned to students are solely for the student's use and not for the use of other family members that requires regular access, such as storage;
6. There are to be no more than three overseas students residing in the home;
7. Students are to be given a key to the home so that the student can gain access to the home at any time;
8. There must be adequate lighting for study purposes;
9. There must be heating in winter and some means of cooling in summer;
10. There must be access to bathroom, with reasonable time allowed for showers (10 minutes);
11. There must be access to kitchen and laundry facilities and use of shared living areas of home;

12. The homestay host is to provide three meals a day including a self-served breakfast, food being made available for students to make themselves a light lunch (a sandwich and piece of fruit) and a cooked meal for dinner to be eaten with the rest family. Students may also have access to an after school snack. In providing meals, the homestay host must be aware of and take account of cultural differences and dietary needs;

13. House rules are to be discussed and explained to the student by the host parents, (including, but not limited to, friends visiting, use of phone and incoming calls, cleaning of own room or other household tasks, meal times and rules for behaviour, such as going out with friends and times for arriving home, manners and courtesy);

14. Use of telephone and/or computer facilities is to be at students' own expense. However, charges to the student should only cover the actual cost of phone or internet usage. Use of homestay internet will be restricted, including restrictions on downloads. Internet access is not permitted between 11pm and 6am. Personal items and their insurance to be at the student's own risk;

15. Students may change homestay if there is a medical reason to do so or the placement in particular homestay is not compatible. A written request from the parents of the student is required. Changes to homestay placement may incur an additional fee;

16. Overseas requests for homestay placement require compulsory airport pickup to be organised by the Homestay Provider arranging homestay placement. Friends and relatives are not permitted to pick up the student from the airport and deliver to the homestay. There is a fee payable to the Homestay Provider for this service.

The present cost of homestay accommodation ranges from A\$300 to A\$330 per week, including the Homestay Carer role. All homestay payments must be paid monthly and in advance. The Department takes no responsibility for variations or increases from time to time.

Students will be placed at a homestay within reasonable travelling time to their high school. Parents may request two separate homestay placements if the student is also attending an intensive English course located farther away from the high school. This request must be received with payment of fees and will incur an additional cost. To assist students settle into life and study in NSW, only one placement is recommended.

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Recognising the importance of child protection, Homestay Providers and hosts ensure that all adult individuals residing at any homestay premises will have passed a Working With Children Check.

Homestays are visited and inspected by Homestay Providers regularly to ensure that standards are being met.

Homestay hosts take on the carer role for students under 18 years of age. Homestay hosts take on a parental role in communication between the student, schools, the Department and parents. They provide care and support for students and assist students to settle into life and study in school.

In the event that the Department suspends, terminates or cancels the enrolment of the student, it is a

requirement that the student must remain in accommodation approved by the Department until one of the following occurs:

1. the student is accepted by another CRICOS registered provider and that registered provider takes over responsibility for approving the student's accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements
2. the student leaves Australia
3. other suitable arrangements are made that satisfy migration regulations
4. the Department reports to the Australian government Department of Education and Training that it can no longer approve of the welfare arrangements for the student.

I, , parent of the student
(name of parent) (name of student)

agree to the above conditions for my child's accommodation and welfare.

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Signature

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Date