

# DE INTERNATIONAL

## WELFARE POLICY

### Welfare Requirements for international students in New South Wales (NSW) government schools:

- **Students in primary school** in Kindergarten to Year 4 must live with their parent. Primary students in Years 5 or 6 may live with a parent or direct relative approved by the Department of Home Affairs.
- **Students in Years 7 and 8** may live with a parent or direct relative approved by the Department of Home Affairs.
- **Students in Years 9 - 12** may live with a parent, approved relative or in a homestay.

### The Department of Home Affairs requires student visa holders under 18 years to either:

**1. live with their parent or a suitable relative (as defined by Department of Home Affairs).** Parents may accompany their child on a guardian visa. Parents must complete the Parent Declaration for guardian visa applicants. Alternatively, parents may nominate a suitable relative who is aged over 25 and is of good character. The relative must provide a police check and evidence of the family relationship as part of the student visa application. The relative's name, address and contact details are provided to DE International on the Application form and the parents and relatives complete the Direct Relative Nomination form. The student must live with this relative.

**OR**

**2. live in arrangements approved by their education provider.** Parents must request NSW Department of Education to arrange Homestay.

DE International will then issue the Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) form for the student's visa. If a CAAW form has been issued, the student must live in a Homestay approved by NSW Department of Education.

Homestay families must:

- be registered with a Homestay Provider with an agreement with NSW Department of Education
- must have Working with Children Check (WWCC) clearance on all adults residing in the home
- meet the requirements, as outlined in the **Homestay Information for Parents sheet**
- agree to take on the responsibilities of a carer for a student under 18 years, as outlined on the Homestay Carer form.

Homestay accommodation is arranged for students only. Visiting parents or relatives must seek independent accommodation arrangements. Parents of students in Years 9 - 12 may apply for approval for their child to live with distant relatives or family friends if they have an established relationship with the family. These are referred to as **Parent Nominated Homestays** and must meet the same homestay requirements. In the interest of the student's language development it is recommended that they live in an English speaking home.

To obtain approval, the nominated family must meet all the requirements of a registered homestay, as stated above. The following procedure is required and may take four to six weeks to complete:

- Parents nominate the family on the **application form** or complete the **Parent Nominated Homestay form**, available at DE International. This form is to be completed and returned to DE International. Parents must advise the family of the requirements.
- The nominated family is referred to a Homestay Provider for registration. There may be costs for registration with a Homestay Provider.
- All adults (over 18 years) residing at the home are to have Working with Children Check (WWCC) clearance and the home will be inspected and must meet all requirements.
- The Homestay Provider will send a report on the home with copies of the WWCC to DE International.
- **If all requirements are met the homestay will be approved.**

### ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

- Students whose parents are applying for a guardian visa, including students enrolling in Kindergarten to Year 4, must be accompanied by their parent.
- Students whose direct relatives are approved by Department of Home Affairs are permitted to travel to Australia unaccompanied but must be met at the airport by the approved relative.
- Students whose parent nominated carer is approved by the NSW Department of Education are permitted to travel to Australia unaccompanied but must be met at the airport by the approved carer.
- Students whose parents have requested a homestay placement are permitted to travel to Australia unaccompanied but must be met at the airport by the approved Homestay Company's 'airport pick up' service.