

Homestay

“Homestay” is an Australian family welcoming a student from another cultural background into their home. It is about providing a safe, warm and friendly environment for an international student who may never have been away from home before.

While all homestay families are different, the one thing they have in common, is their willingness to include an international student as part of their family. Homestay students are encouraged to join in family activities whenever possible.

It is important that good relationships are developed and this may take time. Regular communication, honesty and openness are essential. Students should feel comfortable to approach their homestay family to talk about any difficulties they are experiencing in the home or at school. Likewise, homestay families should discuss any issues that arise with their student. Assistance can always be sought from the school to resolve any matters.

HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION INCLUDES:

- ✓ A single room with suitable mattress
- ✓ A study desk and appropriate chair
- ✓ A study lamp
- ✓ Wardrobe facilities
- ✓ Good overhead lighting and ventilation
- ✓ Suitable window coverings for privacy
- ✓ Acceptable toilet and bathroom facilities
- ✓ Student to have own house key
- ✓ Laundry services as negotiated between the homestay family and student
- ✓ Access to a phone
- ✓ Internet provided
- ✓ Access to household materials, such as towels, sheets, blankets and eating/cooking utensils.
- ✓ On arrival, Students will be given all phone numbers (home, work and mobile) as well as emergency names and numbers of personnel outside of the homestay family.
- ✓ Three healthy sustaining meals each day as well as snacks at other times when required. If there are certain foods a student does not eat or is allergic to alternative arrangements will be made.

ORIENTATION TO THE LOCAL AREA

To assist the student to become familiar with the local area, homestay families accompany the student on or before their first day to school. They also take students to the major local shopping centre, library, movie theatre, post office and banks.

CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES/HOMESTAY

Developing relationships between students and homestay families take time. All members of the family including the student work together to get to know each other.

If necessary, a change in homestay can be arranged following mediation between the homestay family and the student. In case of problems between family and student, the school provides support to the student and arranges mediation.

Should a change of homestay family become necessary, the school will make all arrangements and provide follow-up support for the student and the new homestay family.