

HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION

'Homestay' consists of living with a private family or person, more or less as a member of the family, normally with your own bedroom, but sharing other facilities in the house. Some families will provide Australian style food only, but others will vary the menu. Full Board in private homes (meals included) costs between approximately \$200 & \$300. Please note that special conditions on guardianship that apply for students under 18 years old.

Choosing a Homestay Provider

If your decision is to stay in an Australian home, you need to be prepared for this experience. It is important to your homestay provider that you enjoy your stay, but each of you will need to adapt to each others ways of living. Communicating well will help you and your homestay hosts to develop a good and lasting friendship.

Information and Guidelines

If you have concerns or feel uncomfortable about any aspect of your homestay, please discuss these issues with your international student adviser. Most institutions have a minimum period that you **MUST** remain in Homestay. Check with your institution office about this. If you wish to leave after this period you may do so but remember to tell your homestay hosts **TWO WEEKS** before you intend to move and consult with the adviser at your institution. If you do not advise your homestay provider you will have to pay a further two weeks rent.

- Rent or Homestay Payment, must be paid two weeks in advance. Please do not embarrass your homestay provider or yourself by delaying payment so that they have to ask you for money.
- Homestay families have household rules. Your homestay provider will discuss these with you shortly after your arrival.
- Spend some time having social contact with your homestay family. It will help you to improve your English and learn about the Australian way of life. Your homestay hosts will also be able to learn more about your culture, way of life, and food preparation in your family. It will also help you and your new homestay hosts to enjoy your stay even more.

- In Australia, women and men are regarded as equal. Each must be given the same respect. Discrimination on the basis of race, religion, culture and gender is unlawful.
- Some families feel it is not polite to help yourself to food from the refrigerator or pantry. Your homestay provider should discuss all matters concerning food with you.
- If you have a problem with food, talk to your homestay family, discuss what you like or dislike and ask if they could cook some of the foods you like, for instance noodle or rice dishes.
- Always let your homestay provider know in advance if you will not be home for a meal. Most homestays require this by 4.00 p.m. on the day at the latest.
- As you will be a part of a household, you could offer to assist in small household chores, such as keeping your room tidy and hanging up clothes and towels in your bathroom.
- Water in Australia is a problem for all Australians! We either have too much in some parts of the country or not enough in other parts! All homestays must purchase their water, hence the water account is also expensive for your homestay provider. You will most likely be advised by your homestay provider that they have limits on when they can water their gardens, how long you can shower. If you want to do the right thing with your homestay and DO NOT stay under the shower for more than 5 minutes body/hair washing time. You need to plan your time under the shower. Your homestay provider may state how long they think you should use the shower. Procedures for washing and ironing your clothes should also be discussed.
- Most students have their own mobile telephone. If you want to use your home stay's fixed house phone, it is polite to ask permission BEFORE using the host's telephone. Some families will let you make local calls but have restrictions on overseas calls. If you are calling overseas, you can ring the operator first and ask for a 'ring back price' for your call, or you can reverse the charges to your home country, or better still, buy and use a phone card. Remember to first ask your family before using their telephone.
- If internet is available check if there is time limits for use.
- Homestay hosts may be non-smokers. They **will** require guests to smoke outside. Check with your homestay family.

- Please be security conscious if you are the last to leave the house. Please make sure you close all windows and lock all doors. You should discuss these arrangements with your homestay provider.
- Do not be home late too often. If you are going to stay with a friend or you are going to be late home from school ALWAYS telephone your homestay to let them know where you are. If you are staying with a friend give your friend's telephone number to your homestay so they can contact you if necessary. Your homestay hosts may also have times when they expect you to be home, please discuss this with them.
- Ask your homestay provider in advance if you can have friends come and visit you. You may like to have your friend stay the night. You must have permission from your homestay family before you make any such arrangements.
- If your homestay family has young children, you are not obliged to look after them.
- Your bedroom is your private area. It is acceptable to ask anyone else to leave it.
- Please check with your homestay hosts to see if they have any other rules which they would like to discuss with you.