

## Homestay Policy

**Rationale:** Where parents opt for DEECD to arrange accommodation, the Department through the school, is responsible for provision of accommodation, support and general welfare to the student. These arrangements shall be in place for the period that the student will be under 18 while in Australia. This policy has been developed to meet the requirements of the ESOS National Code 2007 and Student visa (Condition 8532) which require that appropriate arrangements have been made for the accommodation, welfare and support of students under 18 years of age.

This policy is designed to be consistent with the PPSSU guidelines.

### Policy:

- The School will organise homestay accommodation of high quality and which provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment.
- The homestay accommodation will be provided by a host which may be a family, couple or single person and need not be of Anglo-Saxon descent.
- Working with Children checks will be organised prior to the student moving in
- The maximum number of students per homestay is 3, regardless of provider.
- A weekly fee of between **\$275 - \$290** will be charged. This covers expenses associated with the provision of the following homestay services:
  - Single bedroom for the student's exclusive use
  - Three meals per day, seven days per week (cooked evening meal)
  - Facilities including a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
  - Gas, electricity, heating and water costs
  - Cleaning services of common living areas
  - Use of living areas within residence
  - Study facilities, including a desk, study light and bookcase
- Telephone and internet expenses will be the student's responsibility.
- The initial payment will include two weeks' rent in advance plus a bond that is the equivalent of two weeks' rent.
- During holidays a holding fee to secure the homestay accommodation fee may be required to cover the student's absence.
- If a homestay provider wishes to terminate the homestay agreement, at least two weeks' notice is given to the student and School.
- Where a student moves out of a homestay at least two weeks' notice must be given to the homestay provider and School. Giving less than this may result in the bond being forfeited.
- Students of the opposite sex will not be permitted to live in the same homestay.
- Students will be asked to sign a Homestay Responsibility Agreement on commencement of their enrolment. This will outline the house rules and requirements as well as homestay costs and methods of payment.
- Students must have written permission from their parents and must provide relevant contact details if they wish to stay away from their homestay overnight
- Students and/or parents are required to reimburse homestay providers for any damage to property caused by student, or costs incurred by student during the time of residence
- Complaints that cannot be resolved by either the homestay provider or the student should be referred in writing to the School.
- The School will monitor progress of homestay arrangements, including twice yearly visits.
- Students may not change the homestay arrangements without consultation with the School.
- It is a condition of enrolment at **the VCA Secondary School** that all international students must reside in homestay accommodation (**including** students who are over 18).

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