

Homestay Policy

Welfare Requirements for International Students in NSW Government Schools:

- **Students in primary school must live with their parent.**
- **Students in Years 7 and 8 must reside with a relative.**
- **Students in Years 9 – 12 may live with a parent, approved relative or in a homestay.**

Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) requires student visa holders under 18 years to either:

1. **live with their parent or a suitable relative (as defined by DIAC).** Parents may accompany their child, usually on a guardian visa, or parents may nominate a suitable relative who is aged over 21 and is of good character. The relative must provide a police check and evidence of the family relationship directly to the Australian Embassy / Consulate for approval. The relatives name, address and contact details are provided to International Students Centre (ISC) on the Application form and the parents and relatives complete the Guardian / Carer form. The student must live with this relative.

OR

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

The ISC will then issue the **Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements (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 and Training.**

Homestay families must:

- be registered with a Homestay Provider with an agreement with NSW DET,
- agree to Working with Children Checks (WWCC) 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 guardian / carer for a student under 18 years, as outlined on the **Homestay Guardian / Carer form.**

Parents of students in Years 9 – 12 may apply for approval for their child to live with distant relatives or family friends if they know the family. For 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 4 to 6 weeks to complete:

- Parents nominate the family on the **application form** or complete the **Parent Nominated Homestay form**, available at ISC. This form is to be completed and returned to ISC. (Parents must advise the family of the requirements).
- Nominated family contacts a homestay provider (listed on the form) 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 Checks (WWCC) 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 ISC.
- **If all requirements are met the homestay will be approved.**