HOMESTAY OVERVIEW **FOR HOST FAMILIES** V26.1

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER: **Mark Spencer 0434 123 436 - 24/7 EMERGENCY & SUPPORT**
HOMESTAY COORDINATOR: **Maddie Kent & Melinda Hall** 0490 395 288 & homestay@calcc.qld.edu.au (office hours)

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- IF THERE IS A CRITICAL INCIDENT, PLEASE PHONE **EMERGENCY SERVICES ('000')** FOR AMBULANCE OR POLICE BEFORE CONTACTING CalCC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF.

ACCOMMODATION EXPECTATIONS

- Single placed homestay students are to have their own, safe & secure room.
- Double placed homestay students can share a room (bunk bed or 2 single beds).
- The student's room should have regular clean linen, towels and a closing door for privacy. A desk is not necessary for shorter stays.

MEAL TIME

- A packed lunch and a water bottle are to be provided by the host family every day for school for the student, including excursions (unless advised differently by a CalCC International staff member). Please pack lunch in a suitable lunch box. Meals should be nutritious and in accordance with individual dietary and medical needs.
- As part of their cultural experience, students are encouraged to try unfamiliar foods, so you may prepare your usual family meals. Having some rice available for Asian students can be helpful.

HOMESTAY TRANSPORT

- Transport is provided by the host family and included in the homestay payment. College bus bookings are available for an additional fee. Please contact us for details. A host family member must accompany the student at the bus stop in the morning and afternoon. Students must not catch public transport alone.
- Drivers of vehicles in which international students are passengers, must hold a full Australian driver's licence (no P's).

HOMESTAY PAYMENT

- Payments are $71 per night (single) or $132 per night (double), tax-free and cover three nutritious meals daily (including a packed school lunch & eating out), transport to and from school, a private room and basic utilities.
- Amounts are paid in advance on a fortnightly basis into your nominated bank account.
- Families should consider costs for optional activities and eating out. Hosts are not required to provide costly activities, which are at the host's discretion. Please advise CalCC International staff before offering activities that may require student payment.
- To avoid potential misunderstandings, cash should not change hands directly between the student and host. If a student needs to borrow money, please contact a CalCC International Program staff member.

MEDICATION & PERSONAL HYGIENE

- **No medication** is to be given to any student at **any time** including simple pain relief like paracetamol. If a student has a fever, please contact CalCC International staff immediately (Mark Spencer 24/7 - 0434 123 436).
- Please explain shower use, laundry routines and where to place dirty clothes. We suggest providing a bathroom bin for personal items and advise students not to flush them.

SPIRITUAL & CULTURAL PRACTICES

- We value respect and understanding. International students are expected to respect all faiths and those who do not hold religious beliefs.
- If you attend a regular church/youth group, we encourage you to include your student in your ordinary attendance unless it interferes with your own family or personal needs.
- Our visitors are enriched by the opportunity to experience all aspects of your genuine family life. Please simply consider if the activity is age appropriate and whether any activities may be confronting for students from different cultural backgrounds (e.g. charismatic worship, healing, speaking in tongues).
- Ensure students understand the activity beforehand, ideally explained in their language by our support staff. Clarify that attending a service or event does not require them to adopt unfamiliar practices or beliefs.

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HOUSEHOLD RULES & BEHAVIOUR

- Please explain any household rules to the student. We suggest keeping it simple but clear. If the student has trouble following them after a few reminders, just let our staff know.
- Students are welcome to use your Wi-Fi during their stay. Please explain any rules or limits for internet use & cybersafety clearly.
- Most have their own device and may contact family by phone, app, or email. If a student needs to make an international call on your phone, please check with us first.
- If a student shows unusual behaviour, distress or other concerns, contact CalCC International staff promptly to ensure a positive experience.

VISITORS, TRIPS & OTHER BOARDERS

- Living on the Coast, it's normal to have friends or relatives stay over. Please let CalCC International staff know in advance who will visit, when and for how long. Similarly, if you plan to take your student camping, visit relatives overnight or go on a longer trip, give plenty of notice so we can inform their parents and discuss possible extra costs in advance.
- While other boarders are allowed, visiting students come for cross-cultural and English-learning experiences. We generally avoid placing students with residents who speak the same native language. Please notify us promptly if you will have additional students.

SOCIAL OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES WITH A RISK FACTOR

- For safety, students should always be with an adult; at home or when going out.
- No sleepovers for short-term students. Visits for dinner or playdates are welcome if both host families agree, but students must return to their own host family for the night.
- To keep activities safe and manageable, we ask that no more than four students join each host family for playdates or group events.
- **NO SWIMMING**: Students are not permitted to engage in water activities such as swimming in the home pool, local pool and ocean. This extends to any water-based activities which carry the same or higher risk than swimming. Conditional exemption may apply following CalCC-arranged testing by a qualified assessor.
- Students should not undertake high risk activities such as horse riding, surfing, jet-skiing, mountain climbing or similar. If unsure whether a planned activity might classify as risky, please check with our CalCC International staff.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS, INFORMATION & SUPPORT

- Every household resident over 18 years of age who live or regularly stay in your home must obtain a valid Blue Card or Exemption Card. We are happy to assist with the application process.
- Please inform us of any changes to your home environment or household members promptly.
- Occasionally, placements may change at short notice. We aim to meet the needs of both students and host families and will discuss reimbursement if payment has already been made. We can also arrange respite care if you are away, finding a suitable host and agreeing on fair payment.
- Remember, we're here to help you every step of the way. Reach out anytime with questions, thoughts or if you need support.

THOUGHTFUL GESTURES

- In many cases students will bring a gift for each member of the family.
- It is not an obligation for you to reciprocate, but you may feel you would like to give or make a gift or card.

FAMILY MATCH-UP, FAREWELL & DEPARTURE

- Study tour groups will meet at the local school for family matchups and departure. Exact times and locations will be shared ahead of time.
- Longer-term students will be dropped off and picked up directly from the host family's home.
- Occasionally, we organise a farewell party during or outside school hours. Attendance is optional, but it's a wonderful opportunity to share a provided snack or pizza with other host families and your student and to hear their performance and thanks for hosting. Family participation helps students feel welcomed and included. If a farewell is planned, we will let you know in advance.