



Australian Government  
Schools International

# Australian Government Schools International Homestay Standards



**Recognising the importance of ensuring the safety and welfare of under 18 international students and their requirements in line with ESOS legislation, Australian Government Schools International (AGSI) have compiled the following homestay standards.**

## Homestay Residence Standards

- A safe, secure, private bedroom for the student's sole use with suitable storage space for clothes, personal effects and study materials, and suitable facilities including a desk, a chair and adequate lighting for study purposes;
- The home is clean and has appropriate furnishings suitable for a family and students;
- There is access to a shared or private bathroom, with reasonable time allowed for showers;
- There is access to kitchen, living areas, laundry facilities and shared areas of the home;
- There is some form of heating in winter if required and some means of cooling in summer;
- Students are to be provided with any keys, alarms or passwords required to have free access to the homestay residence.

## Homestay Provider / Coordinator Responsibilities

- Ensures that all adults residing at any homestay premises have current checks and clearances for working with children as required by the appropriate state or territory regulatory body;
- Conducts assessments of the homestay with access to all areas of the homestay premises for the purposes of checking compliance with the homestay standards required by the education provider;
- Ensures host families have appropriate insurance policy cover for students residing in their home;
- Ensures there is regular training of host families;
- Ensures there is a 24 hour emergency number that all stakeholders can contact in the event of an emergency;
- Maintains regular contact with host families, students and school staff as required.



## Host family Responsibilities

- Provide a safe and welcoming homestay family environment that will encourage students to experience life as a member of the family and, where suitable, include students in family related activities;
- Provide an orientation within the family home, the use of facilities and security. This should include household protocols and safety rules about access and the use of shared areas or facilities such as swimming pools, internet, telephone, mealtimes, visitors and appropriate times to return home during the week and on weekends;
- Orientate students to the local area including public transport and getting to and from school; the location of shops, doctors or medical facilities; and recreation areas;
- Ensure the student is aware of emergency numbers including 000, location of police stations and Australian laws pertaining to under 18 year olds;
- Ensure that students are appropriately supervised at all times throughout the duration of residing in the homestay including:
  - » maintaining suitable supervision of students outside of school hours;
  - » monitoring the student's general welfare including the students' social activities;
- Attend interviews with school staff, at enrolment, parent meetings and as required by the school;
- Contact the school regarding any student welfare, academic progress and attendance issues;
- Notify the homestay coordinator **two weeks in advance, or as soon as practicable if this is not possible**, of any change of circumstances in the household including:
  - » if the homestay provider proposes to materially change the homestay residence in such a way that will affect their ability to meet the homestay residence standards listed above;
  - » if the homestay provider is temporarily unable to provide accommodation or suitable supervision for periods of holidays or other periods;
  - » if the homestay provider intends to change address or contact details;
- Ensure the student resides in their approved address at all times and notify the homestay coordinator and the school immediately if the student fails to do so or intends to move;
- Assist and support the student's attendance at the school and support the completion of homework assignments where required;
- Meet with the international student coordinator or homestay coordinator, as required by the school/education provider;
- Assist the student to access any necessary medical, dental, hospital or other health-related services, including making appointments and, where necessary, accompany the student to those appointments and if required advise the school / homestay coordinator of any medical issues.