ACT Education Directorate logo**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION UNIT (IEU)**

**HOMESTAY PROTOCOLS**

**International Education Unit (IEU):** *manages International Education service offerings, including Homestay accommodation for students 16 years and over who are under the welfare of the ACT Education Directorate.*

* Match hosting families with students in an age / gender / culturally appropriate manner;
* Communicate with hosts and biological parents to inform and reassure regarding social integration, cultural awareness, well-being and academic aspects of student transition;
* Co-ordinate twice yearly Homestay Forums to share information and resources relevant to the hosting role as well as foster interaction between host families;
* Conduct routine reviews of hosting premises to ensure on-going compliance with the required standards of design, safety and cleanliness;
* Audit *Working with Vulnerable People* registration status of adults in hosting households.

**Homestay Hosts:** *welcome international students as a member of their family.*

* Offer students a family experience in a safe and nurturing environment;
* Provide a suitably furnished room (bed, storage, study area), meals and access to amenities, receiving $300 weekly from the student’s family;
* Expect students to dine with the family and encourage conversation in English;
* Ensure age-appropriate supervision and care for students outside school hours;
* Contribute constructively to solutions focused, home-based roundtable mediation, if needed.

***Becoming a host is straightforward:*** *and rewarding, as you increase own insight to other cultures.*

* Obtain, and maintain, a valid *Working with Vulnerable People* registration;
* Complete and submit an application, to the IEU;
* Meet with an IEU staff member, in your home, to confirm suitability of accommodation and for an initial briefing session;
* Arrange appropriate home and contents insurance to cover student (boarder) belongings and damage;
* Attend one Homestay Forum per year.

**Hosted Students:** *experience Australian family life.*

* Engage enthusiastically with a new cultural experience;
* Appreciate own furnished room, dedicated study area, access to amenities, key to the home and three meals daily;
* Respect host family property and routines, including helping with household tasks;
* Advise host and/or IEU staff if experiencing “settling in” concerns and participate with a positive attitude in resolution strategies.

***Homestay Alternatives:*** *for students younger than 16 years or over 18 years.*

* Reside with a parent or close relative approved as a guardian by the Department of Home Affairs;
* Move to independent living (18 years minimum), if approved by the IEU and overseas parents as being mature enough to manage without compromising educational outcomes.

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