



International Student Accommodation Policy

Rationale:

Where parents nominate DET to arrange accommodation, the Department through the school, is responsible for provision of accommodation, support and general welfare to the student. These arrangements must remain in place for the period that the student is enrolled at Northcote High School.

The support of homestay families has been an extremely important component of the Northcote High School International Student Program's success. The homestay experience is an excellent support for students in improving their English, learning about Australian culture and makes the most of their international education experience. To ensure all homestay experiences achieve their outcomes, it is essential that the homestay accommodation arranged by the school is of a very high quality and provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment for the students.

To fulfil DIAC student visa conditions and to follow the DET homestay guidelines all international students enrolled at Northcote High School, must live with school approved homestay families.

The preferred homestay arrangement is where students are compatible and are not from the same language background. They can then focus on their study opportunity and enjoy an encouraging and caring life experience while pursuing a successful educational future at Northcote High School.

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 over their enrolment period.

This policy is designed to be consistent with the Program Planning and School Support Unit guidelines as well as those set out in the School Resource Kit of the International Education Division of DET.

Policy:

- The School will source and organise homestay accommodation of a high quality and which provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment.
- The school will use also registered homestay agencies to source homestay accommodation. In addition, they may use school newsletter and community referral.
- 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 and under the same roof as



the students.

- Homestay host parents must reside in the same residence and under the same roof as the students. A self-contained flat or bungalow is not acceptable
- Working with Children checks will be organised prior to the student moving in
- Homestay site visit will be conducted prior to the student moving in.
- The maximum number of students per homestay is two, regardless of provider. In special circumstances, the school may place 3 students in one household for a short agreed time.
- A weekly fee of approximately \$320 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/cooling and water costs
 - Cleaning services of common living areas
 - Use of living areas within the 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 that is the equivalent of two weeks' rent.
- During the summer, end of year holidays a holding fee to secure the homestay accommodation fee may be required to cover the student's absence, if the student is returning to the same homestay.
- If either homestay provider or the student wishes to terminate the homestay agreement, notice is given to the student, homestay and School (The International Student Co-ordinator).
- 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. Student Induction will educate the students on cooperative living expectations and 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
- The International Student office reviews each homestay twice a year and acts on areas of concerns, professionally and promptly.
- Complaints that cannot be resolved by either the homestay provider or the student should be referred in writing to the School (The International Student Co-ordinator). The Assistant Principal responsible for the International Student Program operations will work with all parties to bring about a satisfactory resolution of concerns for all parties.
- Students may not change the homestay arrangements without consultation with the School (The International Student Co-ordinator).
- The International Student office reviews each homestay and acts on areas of concerns,

- professionally and promptly.
- The host family must attend the annual Host Induction Forum, which ensures that host families are well informed, engaged and supported.

This policy was ratified by School Council in May 2018.