

# International Student Homestay Policy

## Rationale:

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.

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.

## Policy:

- 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
- A weekly fee of approximately \$360 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, water and internet costs
  - Cleaning services of common living areas
  - Use of living areas within the residence
  - Study facilities, including a desk, study light, bookcase and internet connection
- 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 \$15 per day 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 the homestay provider or the student wishes to terminate the homestay agreement, a two-week notice must be provided to the student, homestay, and school in advance. (The International Student Co-ordinator).
  
- Students and host families 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
- 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.
- The host family must attend the annual Host Induction Forum, which ensures that host families are well informed, engaged and supported.