

International Student Program – Homestay Policy



Rationale: Where parents opt for DET to arrange accommodation, the Department through the College, is responsible for provision of accommodation, support and general welfare to the student. These arrangements shall be in place for the period that the student will be under 18 years of age while in Australia. 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 less than 18 years of age.

This policy is designed to be consistent with the IED guidelines. It is a Quality Standards requirement that all schools have a homestay policy in place.

Aim: To provide quality homestay accommodation for International Students under welfare options 3 and 4.

Implementation:

DET Compulsory Homestay Policy Requirements

Welfare

- The College will organise homestay accommodation of high quality and which provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment.
- The homestay accommodation will be provided by a host, which may be a suitable family, couple or single person.
- Working with Children Checks will be completed and reviewed by the College for all adults residing or frequently residing in the homestay prior to the student moving in.
- The maximum number of students per homestay is 3 at all times, regardless of provider.
- Students must provide written permission from their parents to the College and have the College's endorsement if they wish to stay away from their homestay overnight. The College also must hold relevant contact details and inform the homestay of the arrangement prior to the student being allowed to stay away.
- The College will monitor progress of homestay arrangements, including twice-yearly visits.

Fees and Services

- A weekly fee of \$310 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 and water costs
 - Cleaning services of common living areas
 - Use of living areas within residence
 - Study facilities, including a desk, study light and bookcase
- Telephone expenses will be the student's responsibility.
- Internet expenses are included in the weekly fee unless otherwise agreed on the Homestay Responsibility Agreement.
- The initial payment will include two weeks' fees in advance.
- During holidays, a holding fee to secure the homestay accommodation fee may be required to cover the student's absence. This is to be \$10 per day or a lesser amount as negotiated between the homestay, student and College.
- 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 College.

Homestay Arrangements

- If a homestay provider wishes to terminate the homestay agreement, at least two weeks' notice is given to the student and College. Any advance payments should be refunded to the student.
- Where a student moves out of a homestay, at least two weeks' notice must be given to the homestay provider and College. Giving less than this may result in the bond being forfeited.
- Students, homestay providers and the College representative will be asked to sign a Homestay Responsibility Agreement on commencement of the student's enrolment. This will outline the house rules and requirements as well as homestay costs and methods of payment.
- Students and homestay providers may not change the homestay arrangements without consultation with the College and through the Homestay Responsibility Agreement.

Over 18 Students

- Students over the age of 18 may be given permission to move out of the approved accommodation providing written parental consent is given and student's choice of accommodation is deemed appropriate by the College.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed annually to up-date the fees for the following year.

This policy was last ratified by the Box Hill Senior Secondary College – School Council on 12/09/2017.