



Welfare and Accommodation Arrangements Information Sheet

Introduction

Student visas for students under 18 are granted under one of two conditions. Either the student is under the care of a close relative or the educational provider is to approve and continue to monitor the welfare and accommodation arrangements for the student.

Sydney Adventist School Auburn operated by Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Greater Sydney) Ltd with a CRICOS code: 02622J has chosen:

- Not to accept students under the age of 12 unless they are in the care of a close relative.
- To approve and monitor the welfare and accommodation arrangements for overseas students age 12 and over but under 18 on case by case basis.

Suitable Accommodation Arrangements

It is the School's preference that overseas students board in the home with families in an arrangement referred to as a "homestay". This usually entails the students being given the sole use of a bedroom, eating with the family and sharing laundry facilities, however some variations to this arrangement are possible. Accommodation in boarding houses is not seen as appropriate.

The following criteria is used to assess the suitability of a homestay location:

- The student will have sole access to a bedroom with a suitable bed, study desk and chair, small bookshelf, wardrobe, draws for clothing and a door with a lock. Sharing a room is possible if done with another overseas student of the same sex by mutual agreement as long as the bedroom is large enough.
- The student will have shared access to a lockable bathroom and toileting area.
- The student may have access to laundry facilities with agreement on times of use.
- The student will either have an agreement to eat with the homestay family or will have shared access to kitchen facilities. If the latter the student will need access to a food storage area including fridge space.
- The homestay arrangement should include homestay parents who are responsible to ensure the student is home at age appropriate hours during the week and on weekends.
- Boarding houses will not be seen as suitable
- The School will also need to review the board and lodging rate to ensure it is reasonable

Monitoring Welfare and Accommodation Arrangements

School responsibility

When the school monitors welfare and accommodation arrangements it will:

- approve a nominated guardian or organise a person to act as guardian

- work with the guardian on assessing the accommodation arrangements including the homestay parents
- notify parents of the accommodation arrangements
- routinely monitor the ongoing suitability of the arrangements
- inform parents of any concerns about student welfare

Guardian responsibility

The Guardian will:

- assist the school with assessing accommodation arrangements
- routinely monitor the established accommodation arrangements
- regularly check for and respond to welfare concerns
- monitor attendance and provide regular notifications to the school on absences
- attend parent-teacher report evenings and provide progress reports to parents
- inform the school assist the student with changes in accommodation arrangements
- inform parents of fee statements and payment requirements
- request principal's leave when and if needed

Parent responsibility

To ensure that the student's welfare and accommodation arrangements are adequately maintained the parent should:

- inform the guardian or school about any concerns relating to student welfare.
- ensure prompt payment of accommodation or educational charges
- address any issues raised by the school or guardian with the student.

Homestay Parent responsibility

To ensure that the student's welfare and accommodation arrangements are adequately maintained the homestay parent should:

- ensure that the students needs are met at all times.
- ensure that the student is at home at age appropriate hours
- raise any issues or concerns with the guardian or School
- ensure that the student has access to a place to study that is free from distraction and that an appropriate amount of time is spent in homestudy.

Student responsibility

To ensure that the intended educational goals are met the student should:

- work with diligence and sustained effort in all classes
- maintain a regular home study program
- attend school each day unless ill
- provide the school with absence notes from the homestay parents / guardian or medical practitioner on the first day back after an absence
- inform the school international student coordinator / guardian of any concerns about accommodation or welfare
- seek extra assistance from teachers when struggling with class work
- ensure that you are at home at the agreed hours during weeknights and over weekends
- inform the homestay parents of where you going and what time you will return if not at school
- if wishing to change course, provider, guardian or homestay arrangement apply at the school using the appropriate form

Maintaining Adequate Welfare and Accommodation Arrangements

If the school takes on the responsibility to approve and monitor welfare and accommodation arrangements the Principal is responsible to notify the department of immigration and citizenship (DIAC) immediately if the school is no longer able to approve these arrangements.

If for no fault of the student the welfare and accommodation arrangements become inadequate the school will assist the family in organising temporary arrangements until suitable long-term arrangements can be made.

If the welfare and accommodation arrangements become inadequate because of the actions of the student the school may choose to inform DIAC. Conditions where this may become necessary include:

- changing accommodation arrangements without notification or approval
- changing guardian without notification or approval
- becoming involved in age inappropriate relationships
- not attending school and not informing the school of your whereabouts