



HOMESTAY PROSPECTUS FOR STUDENTS

Welcome to Homestay

Thank you for inquiring about Homestay in Newcastle. Homestay can enrich your experience in Australia and give you a deeper understanding of Australian customs and culture through living with an Australian family. Please read this prospectus to find out more.

What makes Homestay different from other accommodation?

In Homestay you will live with an Australian family. Australian families may be different from the family you have been used to in your home country. In Australia, people who care for each other and live together in one house may be considered to be a family, so an Australian family may be:

A couple with no children	A single person
A couple with children	A single person with children
An older couple whose family has grown and moved away	

When you are considering Homestay, remember you will be coming to live with a family which has customs, habits and rules. It is important that you understand and accept how the family operates. Homestay is about experiencing Australian culture in the home. It is not like living in your own home or in a hotel.

You may find your host family's house looks very different from your own, your room is larger or smaller than you had imagined, and family members relate differently to each other.

All these things are what makes Homestay a unique and special experience.

How will I know if I will like Homestay?

- Do you enjoy learning about other cultures?
- Do you like to try new things?
- Do you generally get along well with other people?
- Can you adapt to new environments?
- Are you willing to join in as a family member?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you will probably benefit from, and enjoy, Homestay.

What can I expect to be provided by my Homestay host?

Your Homestay host will provide you with the following:

- Your own furnished bedroom. All Homestay properties have been inspected and approved by the Homestay Co-ordinator.
- You will probably share a bathroom and laundry facilities with the host family.
- 21 meals per week. This generally includes packed lunches during weekdays although if you have chosen the cheaper option (\$175 per week for 16 meals) weekday lunches will not be provided.
- Inclusion in family activities, outings and special events.

What is not covered by my Homestay fee?

- Telephone calls. It is important to discuss access to the family's telephone – for both incoming and outgoing calls.
- Transport – your host family will provide information and assistance to help you access public transport.
- Laundry and personal items. It is important to discuss with your host family arrangements in regard to washing household and personal items.

What can I expect to pay for Homestay?

There is a \$195.00 administration fee charged for each Homestay placement. A bank draft for this amount should be attached to your application form when you return it to us, or you should send your credit card details.

The Homestay accommodation fee is \$190 per week. You must pay for 2 weeks (\$380) on arrival. This is non-refundable. You should prepare to stay at least 4 weeks in your Homestay. After this time you can negotiate to stay longer or arrange alternative accommodation.

Some final considerations...

Homestay hosts are kind, caring people who want to make your stay in Newcastle as enjoyable as possible. They welcome you into their home as a gesture of friendship. Meeting you will be an experience that will leave lasting impressions. Through you, they will come to experience your country.

So treat your host as you wish to be treated. Consider their feelings, be considerate of their home and if you have a problem, try to talk to them about it. They will want to help you and to resolve any issues quickly before they become major problems.

So, enjoy Homestay! Enjoy Newcastle! Enjoy Australia! And get your host to teach you to say "G'day!" with an Aussie accent!

For more information please contact:

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