



ACCOMMODATION POLICY

As the College has a guardianship role for International Students, it is important that communication is maintained between those who provide care in the home situation and the school. For this reason, students are not permitted to live in private, unsupervised accommodation or live independently, while enrolled as a student at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) College regardless if they are 18 years or over.

If a student has compelling or extenuating reasons, they may leave the homestay system to live with a blood relative who is an Australian Citizen or Resident, and over the age of 21, however, they must first notify the College for approval in writing and provide written consent from Home Affairs who will undertake a formal investigation and grant approval if all legal requirements are met before moving. An eligible relative would take responsibility for the student's accommodation, welfare and support in Australia. The eligible relative must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or be eligible to remain in Australia until the overseas student's visa expires. The person is approved by the Department of Home Affairs under the Migration Regulations 1994

ACCOMODATION

The College will either arrange accommodation for students directly or via a College approved external agency. Placement may be in consultation with the parent / guardian, but the College retains the right to exercise its discretion on all placements.

The placement of all students requires a written agreement between the College and Homestay provider seeking to ensure minimum standards of accommodation, support to the student out of school and the students overall general welfare. To this end the College conducts student welfare interviews and providers written advice to its local carers / homestay providers as required. The College will actively monitor its students in terms of their accommodation, support and welfare arrangements by way of:

- Student welfare interviews
- Regular review of overseas student attendance
- Homestay provider inspection of accommodation provided by the local Homestay provider.

The school requires all adults who provide overseas student accommodation or welfare arrangements (including other residents in the Home Stay Accommodation over the age of 18 years) to hold a valid and current Working with Children Check.

The accommodation arrangements approved by OLSH College meet South Australian legislative requirements for Child Protection as well as Standard 5 of the 2018 National Code of Practice for Providers of Education for Overseas Students. These include:

- Continuous dates for approved welfare arrangements
- Documented procedures for checking suitability of accommodation, support and welfare arrangements before a student is placed in an approved arrangement and at least bi-annually thereafter
 - Guidelines for selecting, screening and monitoring each third-party provider to organise and assess welfare and accommodation arrangements.
 - Criteria about accommodation services to be provided and contract for arrangements about providing accommodation services.

Any changes to approved accommodation arrangements, must be approved by the College. This includes any requests by students:

- To attend "Schoolies Week" on completion of year 12
- Return home to parents in school holiday periods
- Apply for approval to spend the holidays with relatives or a friend's family.

Accommodation and care arrangements are assessed for suitability prior to approval. Representatives of OLSH College will also visit homestay accommodation biannually to ensure it continues to be appropriate to the students age and needs.

Any accommodation, welfare and other support arrangements for the student must be approved by OLSH College, including arrangements provided by third parties.

HOMESTAY

At the College we take our guardianship of international students very seriously. Parents need, above all, peace of mind when their daughters are studying overseas and we particularly assure you of our care. We believe that successful study is enhanced by living in a secure environment. The quality of your daughter's home away from home experience will, to a great extent, predict a happy and successful future for her. The College approved accommodation agency will find a home, near Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, for your daughter while she studies at the College. If any problems arise with a student's homestay, they should be reported to the International Program Officer.

At the home your daughter will:

- have nourishing meals
- her own fully furnished room with a desk
- have her laundry taken care of
- be included in family activities

A private home in a foreign country provides an opportunity to:

- learn about Australian culture
- form new and lasting friendships
- constantly practise the English language
- be in a safe and friendly environment
- take part in leisure activities

Homestay Fee: Usual Boarding fee is \$340 per week which is for all students

Laundry: Homestay families are generally responsible for washing the student's clothes or the provision for her to do her own

Telephone: Decisions regarding the use and payment of the telephone are made with the Homestay families at the start of the student's stay.

Transport: Homestay families will assist your daughter in travel to and from home to school.

Homestay families really enjoy welcoming students into their home and thank you for the privilege of entrusting her to their care.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Urbano
Principal