



# HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Your questions answered



# WHO IS CETA AND WHAT DOES IT DO ?

CETA Homestay specialises in placing international students under 18 years of age into the care of suitable guardians and homestay accommodation. We pride ourselves on offering a highly personalised service to both our students and their homestay families. Because we truly care about our students, we take great pains to ensure that we only select the most suitable homes for them in Australia.

# WHAT IS A HOMESTAY ?

Homestays come in all shapes and sizes. The households of young families, single parents, senior couples and singles, as well as blended families can all successfully function as a homestay. The key is that our hosts can fulfil two main criteria: pass a Victorian Working with Children Check (WWCC) and provide a caring and supportive environment for our international students.

By welcoming a child into your home, you enable a young person to live in a secure family environment whilst they pursue an education in our fine country. Imagine your own child living and studying overseas. You'd want to be certain they were safe and cared for, wouldn't you? That's exactly what we expect of our host families.

# WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE ?

Once accepted as a homestay, our hosts undertake a thorough briefing given by CETA. This assists them with adjusting to their new role and provides practical advice on helping settle a new student. In order to ensure that our students and homestays remain content, there is a solid support system in place to back up our host families. Your network of support staff would usually include the following individuals:

Local CETA coordinator as first point of contact

Guardian (the student's local legal representative)

School's overseas student program coordinator

Education agent (usually a contact in the country of origin responsible for sourcing the right school)

And let's not overlook the fact that our host families are financially reimbursed for housing students. This is usually paid on a fortnightly basis via direct bank transfer.



## WHAT DO I PROVIDE AS A HOMESTAY ?

When you sign up as a homestay, you agree to provide a certain level of home comforts to our students. Typically this would include:

- Three meals per day (including items for school, packed lunch)
- Clean and tidy home with a private, adequately furnished room
- A table/desk, chair and adequate lighting for doing homework
- Use of a bathroom and laundry facilities
- Access to the home like any family member (with a key or alarm code)
- Internet access to support their study and for communication with home.

Remember too that a student living in your home becomes part of your family and will benefit from being included in your everyday lives, so do encourage them to join in with activities such as special occasions, excursions and family movie nights.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you think that becoming a short-stay or long-term homestay would be of interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions. Alternatively you can apply online directly via our web site.

As soon as your application has been reviewed, we will contact you to arrange an appointment to meet you and visit your home. Our representative will brief you on all aspects of the hosting process and answer any questions. If you already have a WWCC card, we will request to see it. If not, you will be required to apply for one which can take 4-6 weeks to process. This is a simple procedure and there is no cost involved.

Further to this, you will receive additional hosting information by email. Meanwhile, using the information gathered from your application and during our visit, we will then work to match you with a suitable candidate. It is critical that we achieve the right fit of student to home.

Should you decide to proceed, you will enter into a contract with CETA that sets out what you agree to provide and how much you will be reimbursed. It also defines the termination of agreement notice periods for both homestays and students.

Finally, you will receive a student profile document and arrangements will be made for a moving in date. At some point, you will meet the student's guardian and/or school coordinator, usually once the student is already placed in your care. We hope your family will soon be joining ours.

# HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR HOSTS SAY ABOUT PROVIDING A HOMESTAY

**Carol & Mike,**  
Ringwood North

"We have been homestay hosts for Yarra Valley Grammar School for over 12 years working alongside CETA. In that time we've hosted many students from various parts of Asia. It's been an interesting, fulfilling and educational time for all involved; not only have we learnt a different way of life from our students, but hopefully our students have learnt from us how to live and mix with people from a different culture. Mike and I have travelled extensively throughout China, visiting cities proudly described as "my city" by our students. It's hard to describe the pleasure we get and how proud we feel when our students eventually complete their education at Yarra Valley and it's sad when we say goodbye; but it's also exciting to look forward to the prospect of new students and who CETA will select to join our family next year."

**Lindsay,**  
Clayton South

"We love having an international student in our home. Our own young children really enjoy having an extra sibling in the household who is that little bit older and who can share a whole new perspective on the world. It's an enriching experience for us all."

**Bill,**  
Croydon

"What I really like about being a CETA homestay family is the huge amount of support we receive. If there is ever a problem, night or day, there is someone to turn to for help. We are always paid on time and kept fully informed on all matters regarding our guests. We've hosted both younger children on short study tours as well as older teenagers for much longer periods. Either way, it's always a pleasure."