

## ACCOMMODATION POLICY

As the College has a guardianship role for International Students, communication must be 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 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH) College regardless of whether they are 18 years old 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.

### ACCOMMODATION

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 student's overall general welfare. To this end, the College conducts student welfare interviews and provides 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 during 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 before approval. Representatives of OLSH College will also visit homestay accommodation bi-annually to ensure it continues to be appropriate to the student's 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 largely 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 practice the English language
- be in a safe and friendly environment
- take part in leisure activities

**Homestay Fee:** The usual Boarding Fee is \$385 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 enjoy welcoming students into their homes and thank you for the privilege of entrusting her to their care.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Urbano  
**Principal**