

Pre-departure information for homestay students

Homestay enables real insight into how people live in Australia. The following is a guide to an enjoyable and rewarding homestay experience.

Pages 5 – 7 of your [Homestay Student Orientation Material](#) will provide you with more detailed information on the following topics:

Going out/inviting friends to your house

- **Phone** your homestay if you are not going to be home for dinner or if you will be late home.
- When you go out, tell your Homestay Host where you are going and roughly what time you will be home. If you are staying out overnight, you must tell your host your address for the night and leave a contact phone number with them.
- Before inviting friends home for a meal or to visit, ask your Homestay Host if this will be all right.
- Your homestay will **NOT** allow your girlfriend or boyfriend to spend the night with you in your homestay.

Meals

- Tell your Homestay Host what you are not able to eat or what foods you are allergic to.
- Breakfast is usually self-served and your Homestay Host may tell you to help yourself.
- Lunch usually consists of sandwiches which your homestay may ask you to prepare yourself. Your host will provide you with enough food for your own lunch. Please do not expect to take any extra food for sharing with your friends at lunch-time.

Be a member of the family

- Please remember always to be polite and say “please” when asking for something, and “thank you” when something has been done or given to you.
- Your Homestay Host will accept you as a member of the family and asks you to be considerate and accommodating of your Homestay Host’s lifestyle and their house rules.
- Please respect the privacy of family members.

Water usage, heating, cooling and use of utilities

- Water conservation is a very important issue. **Please respect Melbourne’s water restrictions.** You may spend a **maximum of five minutes** in the shower.
- Ask your homestay how to use appliances like the microwave.

Telephone and internet

- To make international calls cheaply, buy a phone card. Before using your homestay’s phone, ask them first how they want you to pay for the call.
- If your homestay has internet access, ask them how much they will charge you to use the internet and if there is a limit to your downloads.