



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

International Student Program – Homestay Policy

Rationale:

Where parents opt for DET to arrange accommodation, the Department through the school, is responsible for provision of accommodation, support and general welfare to the student. These arrangements shall be in place while the student is in Australia. This policy has been developed to meet the requirements of the ESOS National Code 2007 and Student Visa (Condition 8532) which require that appropriate arrangements have been made for the accommodation, welfare and support of students. This policy is designed to be consistent with the PPSSU guidelines. In the context of this policy, Homestay Providers will be identified as 'staff' as part of the college Child Safe Standards and be required to fulfil the required expectations and responsibilities.

This policy is designed to be consistent with the International Education Division (IED) guidelines. It is an International Student Program Quality Standards requirement that all schools have a homestay policy in place.

Aim:

The School will organise homestay accommodation of high quality which provides a safe, inclusive, comfortable and caring environment. The homestay accommodation will be provided by a host which may be a family, couple or single person and need not be of Anglo-Saxon descent.

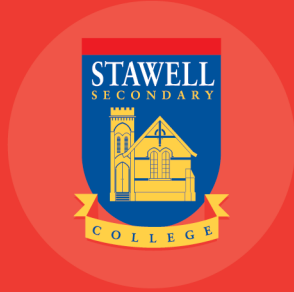
Working with Children checks for all residents over 18 years of age will be organised prior to the student moving in.

The maximum number of students per homestay is 3, regardless of provider.

College employees can provide emergency accommodation but cannot be a permanent homestay provider.

A weekly fee of \$320 will be charged. This covers expenses associated with the provision of the following homestay services:

- Single bedroom for the student's exclusive use within the family home
- Three meals per day, seven days per week (cooked evening meal)
- Facilities including a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- Gas, electricity, heating, cooling and water costs
- Cleaning services of common living areas
- Laundry services
- Use of living areas within residence
- Study facilities, including a desk, study light and bookcase
- Internet broadband at home (with a reasonable data limit)



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Telephone and internet expenses will be agreed upon prior to the student taking up residence and will be part of the Homestay Agreement. (See the Stawell Secondary College International Student Homestay Manual for suggestions).

The initial payment will include two weeks rent in advance. During holidays a room-keeping (holding) fee may be required to secure the homestay accommodation to cover the student's absence. This is to be negotiated between the host family, parent and student and should not be over half the weekly homestay fee.

If a homestay provider wishes to terminate the homestay agreement, at least two weeks' notice must be given to the student and school.

Where a student moves out of a homestay at least two weeks' notice must be given to the homestay provider and school.

If a homestay provider will not be in attendance at the residence overnight or for an extended period of time, at least two weeks' notice must be provided to the school and the student to gain approval of an alternative carer or for the provision of emergency care accommodation. Failure to provide notice or denial of parental approval may result in the withholding of weekly homestay fees for the period of absence and/or the permanent removal of the student into a new host provider. In the case of emergency medical needs for the provider absence notification should be given as soon as possible.

Students and providers will be required to sign a Homestay Agreement prior to the student moving in or on the same day. This will outline cost, method of payment, rules and requirements agreed to by both parties.

Students of the opposite sex will not be permitted to live in the same homestay without written approval from all parties.

Students that wish to stay away from their homestay overnight must provide written permission from their parents along with contact details to the school and homestay provider at least 3 school days prior to the intended date. "Staying away overnight from Homestay" forms are available at the back of the Homestay Manual.

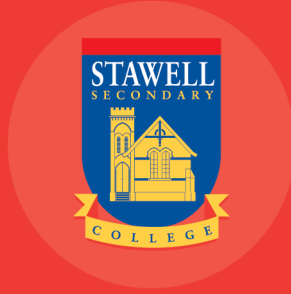
Students and/or parents are required to reimburse homestay providers for any damage to property caused by the student, or any costs incurred by student during the time of residence.

Student's property will be covered by the homestay providers Home/Contents Insurance Policy.

Complaints that cannot be resolved by either the homestay provider or the student should be referred in writing to the school.

The school will monitor progress of homestay arrangements, including twice yearly visits.

Students may not change the homestay arrangements without consultation with the school.



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

It is a condition of enrolment at Stawell Secondary College that all international students must reside in homestay accommodation (including students who are over 18).

It is a condition of enrolment at Stawell Secondary College that students 18 years and older are not to own or have sole control of a motor vehicle.

Students under 15 years of age cannot be housed in homestay arrangements and will only be considered for enrolment if staying with a parent or direct family member.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle in accordance with the Child Safe Policy, in August, every 2 years. The review will be led by the Registrar and referred to the Policy Subcommittee and School Council for ratification.

Reviewed last: August 2022

Next Review: August 2024

First issued	August 2022
Date of update	Summary of change(s)
24 August 2022	Previous ISP Homestay Policy archived due to significant changes.