

## International Student Accommodation & Welfare Policy

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CRICOS Number: 03246J ABN: 96 105 961 135

As a CRICOS registered provider of courses for students under 18 years of age studying on a student visa and living in Australia, Groves Christian College, in accordance with the requirements of the National Code 2007, must have approved accommodation and welfare arrangements in place for international students. There are three approved accommodation and welfare arrangement options and these are listed as follows:

1. Students may live with a parent or relative as approved by Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

In this case:

- i. The College does **not** provide a welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS. The student's family completes Form 157N and provides proof of relationship to Department of Immigration at the time of visa application for approval of these arrangements. The Department of Immigration must also approve any further change of welfare arrangements.
  - ii. If the adult responsible for the welfare, accommodation and other support arrangements for a student under 18 years holds a [Guardian visa \(subclass 580\)](#), all obligations and conditions of this visa must be met, including:
    - not leaving Australia without the nominating student unless the College has first approved alternative welfare and accommodation arrangements for the student for the adult's period of absence, and
    - advising the Department of Immigration of any change of address, passport or other changes of circumstances
2. The student will live in college approved accommodation and care arrangements and the College will generate the welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS to accompany the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).

In this case:

- a. Any accommodation, welfare and other support arrangements for the student must be approved by the College, including arrangements provided by third parties
- b. Any changes to approved arrangements must also be approved by the College. This includes any requests by students under 18 years of age to attend "Schoolies Week" on completion of Year 12.
- c. If a student for whom the College has issued a CAAW refuses to maintain approved arrangements, the College will report this to the Department of Immigration and advise the student to contact the Department of Immigration to ensure visa implications are understood.  
<http://www.border.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations/australia>.

3. College approved accommodation options for full fee paying 500 visa subclass students under 18 years of age include:
  - i. Homestay Program operated by Groves Christian College, Australian Homestay Network or International Student Care Australia. Please see Additional Information below.
  - ii. Private accommodation and care arrangements approved by the College which meet all requirements under relevant state and commonwealth legislation.
4. For College vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available to full fee paying 500 visa subclass students under 18 years of age for whom the College has issued a CAAW:
  - i. Student returns home to parents
  - ii. Student continues to live in/is placed in Homestay arranged and approved by the college
  - iii. Student may spend vacation with relatives or a friend's family if all requirements are met in order to attain college approval.
  - iv. Student may attend a supervised excursion, camp, etc., if all requirements are met in order to attain college approval.
5. Accommodation options for full fee paying 500 visa subclass students 18 years and older include:
  - i. Homestay Program
  - ii. Private accommodation arrangements
6. For College vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available to full fee paying 500 visa subclass students 18 years or older:
  - i. Student returns home to parents
  - ii. Student continues to live in / is placed in Homestay, details of which are recoded by the College
  - iii. Student may spend vacation with friend's family or relatives, provided details are given
  - iv. Student may attend a supervised excursion, camp, etc., provided details are given
  - v. Student may travel unaccompanied during vacation periods, provided details are given.

Additional Information:

**HOMESTAY / PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS:**

The Homestay accommodation arrangements operated by Groves Christian College and approved by Groves Christian College meets Queensland legislative requirements for child protection as well as Standard 5 of the National Code. These include:

- Continuous dates for approved welfare arrangements
- Documented procedures for checking suitability of accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements
  - Guidelines for selecting family and ensuring the family can provide a stable environment for the duration of the student's enrolment at the college
  - Criteria about accommodation services to be provided, and contract for arrangements about providing accommodation services

- Orientation program for families new to provision of homestay services
- Compliant Homestay risk management strategy, reviewed annually, undertaken by operator of the homestay program
- Bluecard for adults living in the homestay / private arrangement other than overseas students.

#### STUDENT GUARDIAN VISAS

Groves Christian College requires holders of Student Guardian Visas to:

- i. maintain Overseas Visitor Health Cover for themselves and any dependent children living with them in Australia
- ii. immediately advise the College of any change to address or contact details
- iii. immediately advise the College if there are any compassionate or compelling reasons to travel overseas or not be at home for an extended period of time to care for the student.

If there is a valid reason for travelling overseas, and the College is able to approve alternative accommodation and care arrangements for the student for the period of student guardian visa holder's absence, the College will provide documentation approving temporary care arrangements for the student for the Department of Immigration via PRISMS.

If there is not a valid reason for travelling overseas, or if the College is not able to approve alternative accommodation and care arrangements for the student for the period of student guardian visa holder's absence, the student will need to travel overseas with the holder of the student guardian visa. In this case, the College will advise if compulsory attendance requirements will or will not be affected by the student's absence.

- Where the student is residing in an parent approved homestay and that person does not hold a current Blue Card, Groves Christian College will remove the student from the home into a college approved homestay until such time as the parent approved homestay is in possession of a current Blue Card

#### **Suspension, Termination or Cancellation of Student Enrolment**

Where a student's enrolment has been suspended or cancelled, Groves Christian College will continue to uphold the welfare of the student until such time as:

- The student has a new provider that takes on the approval of welfare and accommodation requirements
- The student leaves Australia
- Other suitable arrangements are made that satisfy the Migration Regulations, or
- The college reports under Standard 5.1d that it can no longer approve of the arrangements for the student