

# Guidelines for Homestay Students

## Welcome to Australia, Sydney English Academy

Please follow these guidelines to ensure you have the happiest and most productive experience of Homestay with Sydney English Academy's (SEA's) wonderful homestay families:

### Speaking Practice

Chat with, get to know & help your homestay family – don't treat homestay as a hotel! Your family will be very happy if you sometimes start conversations rather than waiting for them to ask you questions.

### Getting Involved

Host families will really appreciate it if you offer to help out around the house. This could be offering to wash up or load the dishwasher, offering to walk the dog or set the table. All these experiences will make you a popular homestay guest and will also give you additional opportunities to practise your English.

### Bathroom Etiquette

Use the shower cubicle or bath to wash in – avoid getting water on the bathroom floor as this can cause accidents. Keep showers to a maximum of 5 minutes (or as instructed by your host family). Australia is a big country with a limited water supply.

### Cultural Differences

Be open-minded about your Australian family's way of doing things – these may be different from the way they are done in your country, but you have opted for homestay to experience the Australian culture and way of life.

### Meal Times

Be open-minded about food; if you have an allergy to/dislike of one type of food which you have informed SEA & your homestay family about, your family will leave this out when preparing meals for you, but if you are fussy about several foods your family will not be able to cater for you. Let your homestay family know in advance if you are going to be late for/miss dinner.

### Home Security

Your host family will give you a house key. Take good care of it. Follow your host family's instructions regarding home security (ie. locking windows) and if you are the last to leave the house always check that you have locked the door.

### Personal Security

Do not carry large amounts of cash or leave your bag unattended when you go out. When travelling late at night either take a taxi from the security monitored taxi ranks or travel home with friends. Do not walk home through parks late at night.

### Having Visitors

Inviting a friend to stay overnight in homestay is not allowed. If you want to invite a friend during the day, check with your host family first.

### Heating

Sydney winters are short so most homes do not have a central heating system. Most families use portable heaters during winter and fans in summer. Australians switch heaters off at night for safety and power saving. If you are cold, ask for additional blankets.

### Washing

Your homestay family may wash your clothes or they may explain how to use the washing machine so you can do your own washing. Do not hang wet clothes to dry in your bedroom.

### Telephone/Internet Access

So as not to disturb people please do not make phone calls after 10pm, even if you are calling from your own mobile.

Internet – If you wish to access the internet please discuss with your Homestay family or look into getting a wireless connection that you can take with you wherever you are. Some homestays charge around \$10 per week for use of their service.

### Coming home late

If you have a curfew please always make sure you are home by this time. Failure to do so will result in trouble and worry for your host family and may involve the directors of the school late at night.

If you know you will not be home for dinner, or will be home late, tell your homestay family in advance.

If you are unexpectedly late, call your family to let them know.

### If you have a problem

If there is something that you don't understand about the homestay rules, ask your family. Sam and Sara at SEA can also help you.