

## CARER/GUARDIAN DUTY STATEMENT

### For Host Families Hosting Underage Students (under 18 years)

As an authorised Host Family approved to host Underage Students : You understand that the welfare arrangements of international students studying in Australia is legislated under the ESOS Act 2000. The granting of a student visa for Underage students is dependent on a number of conditions being met by the student's homestay family, local carer, or legal guardian the student and the education provider.

Families agreeing to host underage students understand that additional screening procedures need to be conducted including valid Working With Children Checks for ALL adults residing in the household – this includes any children of the host family over the age of 18 residing in the family home. Local Carers/Guardians will be required to submit a National Police Certificate (NPC) and/or Working With Children Check (WWC) as stated above as well as this signed 'Carer Duty Statement' before being approved to host underage students.

A 'suitable local carer or guardian' is someone who is deemed suitable by the College to meet the 'duty of care' requirements for underage students, is of 'good character' and must be over 21 years of age. A suitable guardian/carers must also have an appropriate visa to remain in Australia at least until the underage Student's visa expires or turns 18.

#### Host Family Responsibilities:

- Provide a safe and welcoming homestay family environment that will encourage students to experience life as a member of the family and, where suitable, include students in family-related activities;
- Provide an orientation within the family home, the use of facilities and security. This should include household protocols and safety rules about access and the use of shared areas or facilities such as swimming pools, internet, telephone, mealtimes, visitors and appropriate times (curfews) to return home during the week and on weekends;
- Orientate students to the local area including public transport and getting to and from school; the location of shops, doctors or medical facilities; and recreation areas;
- Ensure the student is aware of emergency numbers including 000, location of police stations and Australian laws pertaining to under 18 year olds;
- Ensure that students are appropriately supervised at all times throughout the duration of residing in the homestay including:
  - maintaining suitable supervision of students outside of school hours;
  - monitoring the student's general welfare including the students' social activities;
- Accept interview requests and visits from the school staff as required by the school;
- Contact the school regarding any student welfare, academic progress and attendance issues;
- Notify the homestay coordinator **two weeks in advance, or as soon as practicable if this is not possible**, of any change of circumstances in the household including:
  - if the homestay provider proposes to materially change the homestay residence in such a way that will affect their ability to meet the homestay residence standards listed above;
  - if the homestay provider is temporarily unable to provide accommodation or suitable supervision for periods of holidays or other periods;

- if the homestay provider intends to change address or contact details;
- Ensure the student resides in their approved address at all times and notify the homestay coordinator and the school immediately if the student fails to do so or wishes to move;
- Assist and support the student's attendance at the school and support the completion of homework assignments where required;
- Meet with the Academic Manager or homestay coordinator, as required by the school/education provider;
- Assist the student to access any necessary medical, dental, hospital or other health-related services, including making appointments and, where necessary, accompany the student to those appointments and if required advise the school / homestay coordinator of any medical issues.

**The carer/guardian agrees to the following:**

- To meet the Commonwealth and State legal requirements relating to child welfare and protection
- To give younger students important age/culturally appropriate safety information
- To report any incident or allegation of sexual, physical or other abuse to the College and relevant authorities as required.
- To maintain this welfare / duty of care agreement for the entire duration of their stay
- To put in place age-appropriate curfews and safety procedures for travelling to and from school as well as to any approved activities.
- To contact the college and any relevant authorities/agencies as soon as practical if unable to contact the student and there is any real concern for their safety or welfare
- To receive written approval from the College and/or Parent prior to agreeing to activities not arranged by the college or family or changes to accommodation arrangements
- Contact the college immediately if unable to continue to provide suitable/appropriate accommodation arrangements

Name of Host Family Member : \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of Language Links College

Language Links Homestay Provider Code \_\_\_\_\_