



GENERAL INFORMATION

- About Homestay** Deakin University English Language Institute has arranged Homestay accommodation via a Homestay accommodation provider. Living in a Homestay can be a valuable part of your experience as it provides you with the opportunity to experience Australian life and improve your English.
- Living in Melbourne** The city of Melbourne has a population of 3.6 million people. It is exciting, safe, cosmopolitan and culturally rich. The population is made up of more than one hundred ethnic groups and one in four people are born overseas. Melbourne offers a modern and efficient public transport system, a large number of parks, beaches, public spaces, and a thriving arts culture. For more information about Melbourne visit www.visitvictoria.com.au
- Homestay Families** All Homestay families are different. Your hosts could be a married couple, a single parent, an older couple, retired people or even a single person, and because Australia is such a multicultural nation, Homestay families come from a broad range of backgrounds and cultures. Homestay is a fantastic opportunity for you to experience a new and different lifestyle.
- Weather and Clothing** The weather in Melbourne has four distinct seasons: summer, autumn, winter and spring with temperatures ranging from 10 degrees Celsius in winter to 35 (or more) in summer. Melbourne generally does not experience severe extremes of heat, humidity or cold; however the weather can be very changeable and hard to predict. It is a good idea to wear layers of clothing and to carry a small umbrella or a waterproof jacket.
- Water Restrictions** Drought is a natural part of Australia's climate. Drought may last a few months or many years. This means that we do everything that we can to save water. For example, most families limit showers to 3 – 4 minutes and don't run the taps when brushing teeth or washing dishes. Please discuss with your host on arrival the most efficient and mutually convenient ways of using their bathroom and laundry.
- Travelling to DUELI** Melbourne is a large city, with a few people living in its centre. The majority of Melbournians live in the suburbs, and many travel up to 1.5 hours to work or school. Although we try to place students in home stays as close to DUELI as possible, you should be prepared to spend up to 1 hour travelling to and from DUELI. DUELI is located at Deakin's Melbourne Campus at Burwood. For campus maps to www.deakin.edu.au/campuses . For travelling in Melbourne go to www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au
- Communication** Spend time speaking with your hosts and don't be afraid to ask questions. It will help you to understand each other better. Remember that good communication and respect for both parties are the basis of a successful Homestay experience.
- Good Manners** Australians value politeness and good manners, it is better to try and use polite expressions such as "Thank you" and "Please", as not saying anything may be seen as rude, even though you may not be confident using English at first. People are generally addressed by their first name, but we also use "Mr." and "Mrs." To address elderly people, or people we do not know well, as a sign of respect.
- Happiness and Success** Your happiness and success depends on you!! If your Homestay parents and other members of the household have commitments which make them busy, you have to be prepared to entertain yourself. Use your initiative to make new friends, develop your own interests, or join a local club. Being flexible is a good way of learning about cultural differences.



Living in a Homestay

<p>Your bedroom</p>	<p>Your bedroom will have a desk, a light, a chair and a comfortable bed. If required, a heater can be provided, but you may be asked to pay an additional cost for its use. Australian families do not keep heaters on during the night as this is dangerous. Please remember to turn off lights and heaters before you go out. If you are coming to Melbourne in winter, bring warm pyjamas and wear socks in bed to keep warm</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Toiletries</p>	<p>You are expected to buy your own toothpaste and shampoo, but items such as toilet paper, soap, washing powder/ liquid, towels and bed linen are provided by the host</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Meals</p>	<p>Your host will provide you with three meals a day. Breakfast and lunch are usually self-service and dinner is prepared by the host. Please let your host know what you can and cannot eat, and suggest meals that you like. If you prefer to buy your own lunch just let your host know. It is also polite to notify your host in advance if you will be late for meals or eating elsewhere.</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Laundry</p>	<p>Homestay are equipped with laundry facilities and you should be prepared to do your own washing and ironing, though sometimes you host may offer to do it in an effort to be more water efficient. Do not use the washing machine for a small load, as this is not economical. Clothes are normally dried outside on a clothes line or a clothes horse.</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Heating</p>	<p>Australian homes use a variety of heating methods. Some homes are centrally heated and others rely on individual heaters. Australians don't like their homes to be very hot and nearly always turn their heaters off over night. If you are visiting Melbourne in winter it is important to bring warm clothes (including bed clothes) and expect to wear them inside the house.</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Cleaning</p>	<p>You are responsible for cleaning your bedroom and should clean up the kitchen and bathroom after use. In an Australian home everybody is expected to participate in household duties as both parents often work and there are no servants or maids. As part of the household, you should help with small jobs such as washing dishes, putting out the rubbish or helping to prepare meals. It will help you to feel a part of the family and help you and your Homestay family to get to know each other better.</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Telephone</p>	<p>The Homestay fee does not include telephone or internet charges, you will be responsible for all of these costs yourself. Your host will explain how you may access these facilities. Local calls cost about 22 – 25 cents each. International calls cost about \$1.50 per minute. Please check with your host before calling overseas. You can also use reverse charges to keep in touch with your family or buy a phone card (you can use phone cards to ring from a public or a private phone), and there are also several internet cafes in Melbourne (note that reverse charge calls can be expensive). Please adhere to guidelines about telephone use set by the host and ensure that you pay all your bills before leaving the Homestay.</p>	<p>Please tick that you have understood <input type="checkbox"/></p>



Living in a Homestay (continued)

<p>Internet & computer use</p>	<p>If your homestay has internet access, you can pay \$10 per week for internet use. However, there may be rules about the times you can use the internet.</p> <p>Your homestay may or may NOT have wifi internet access.</p> <p>Students who bring their laptop /tablet / notebook and state this on their application form, will be given a wireless internet USB with start-up credit. This will enable you to use the internet on your laptop / tablet/ notebook.</p>	<p>Please initial that you have understood</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Visitors</p>	<p>You are normally permitted to bring visitors to your Homestay but please discuss with your host first. Check with your host whether they would prefer that visitors leave by a certain time.</p>	<p>Please initial that you have understood</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Security</p>	<p>Melbourne is a very safe place to live. However, you must always be security conscious; for instance, you should lock doors and windows when you leave the home. Discuss security rules with your Homestay host when you first arrive. (Note that homes do not normally have locks on the bathroom or bedroom doors.) You must keep your host informed of where you go. If you do not, and are absent from your Homestay for over 24 hours, we are obliged to contact the police. Please tell your host when you will be home late, or if you are away overnight leave a contact telephone number.</p>	<p>Please initial that you have understood</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Personal property insurance</p>	<p>If you are bringing expensive items with you to Australia, such as a laptop computer, digital camera or jewellery, we recommend that you apply for personal property insurance. This will insure such items against loss or theft. Home insurance that your Homestay host has does NOT cover visitors or students staying in their house.</p>	<p>Please initial that you have understood</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Smoking</p>	<p>Your host decides the rules on smoking. IN most households smoking is not allowed inside.</p>	<p>Please initial that you have understood</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

I have understood and agree to the above statements and conditions.

Signature:

Date / / 20