



EarthBeat.

Conditions of Home stay Accommodation

Earthbeat introduces host families so students have a real lifestyle experience. There are a few points we wish you to understand.

1. Communication

To the host family you are a member of the family. Please work hard to fit in with and participate in the family. In Australia there is a custom where all members of the family share the housework. When you have time, offer to help out. There are some differences in customs so please confirm with the family.

2. The Australian Day

Australians have the custom of getting up and going to bed early. A normal family will wake up at around 6am and go to bed before 10pm. Please try to fit in with the customs of your host family. Families like to spend the evening relaxing and watching television. It is a good idea not to be 'loud' at night.

3. Water usage

Australia has a shortage of water and therefore water is extremely precious. Most households have 1 large tank of hot water, which all the family use. Please do not waste water.

Shower: Most families will not take a bath but will have showers. Please try to finish your shower in 3 - 4 minutes. Also, turn off the water when washing your body.

Dish washing: Australians do not have the custom of washing detergent off. Most Australians will fill the sink with water and add detergent and use a sponge to wash the plates. Some families when using a dishwashing machine will wipe the dishes with a paper towel first.

4. Washing

Most families wash clothing once or twice a week. Most families will wash your clothes with theirs. Please ask the person who does the washing. When washing your own clothes ask how to use the washing machine. Please don't use the dryer but hang your clothes outside to dry and avoid drying clothes in your room.

5. Telephone

When borrowing your host family's telephone, please ask permission and avoid using the phone late at night when it may be a disturbance to others. Also when making international phone calls use a calling card.



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6. Meals

Breakfast : juice, cereal, toast, tea or coffee

Breakfast is usually eaten in your own time and therefore you may be asked to prepare it for yourself.

Lunch: Usually consists of sandwiches, fruit, biscuits, juice/water or similar. This can be made for you or on some days you will be expected to make your own lunch and take it.

Dinner : Pasta and salad / steak, potato and salad

In families where both parents are working, dinner may consist of something bought (chicken/pizza).

Also dinner is usually a time, which all the family enjoys together.

7. Using your own room

Not only are you becoming a member of the family but you are also borrowing a room in someone else's home. Please keep your own room in order. Making your bed before you leave in the morning is a normal custom in Australia. Do not forget to make yours. In Australia we use two sheets. One is to cover the mattress and the other under the blankets. Sleep in between the two sheets. It may be a different custom to what you are used to so take care. If you do not understand ask your host mother.

8. Looking after your valuables

There is no need to carry your passport except when buying duty free items or changing traveller's cheques or money. It is dangerous to carry your valuables around. Please lock your passport, money that you are not using, traveller's cheques and other valuables in your suitcase. Do not leave money in the drawers of desks.

9. Going Out

Host families will be worried that something may happen to you. So before going out tell the family and if possible let them know what time you expect to come home. When you are going to be late home and do not want dinner inform the family by a certain time. If there is nothing special you have to do, try to be home by dark.

10. Personal hygiene products (shampoo, tooth paste etc.)

Australians do not like other people using their personal hygiene products, so please use your own.

11. Using the computer

You may have brought your own computer with you; however some host families may not want you to use the internet. This is because most families in Australia only have one telephone line. If you are using the internet the phone line may not work. Please consult with your family or Earthbeat staff.



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12. Expressions of gratitude (Please!!/Thank you!!)

Expressions of gratitude (Please/Thank you) are important no matter where you go in the world, not just in Australia. Start the custom of using thank you when somebody does something for you and using please when you ask somebody to do something for you. You cannot use these words too many times. Host families will not mind if you express yourself as clearly as you can, even in limited English so try not to use vague expressions.

Lastly, you may experience a sense of limited freedom during your home stay. However, you are now going to experience Australia as if you live here so make your experience significant. We at Earthbeat would like to help you enjoy your stay.

Policy regarding cancellation and changes

13 Changing Host Families

We do not allow a change of host families unless we at Earthbeat deem that the host family are not fulfilling their obligations. If you want to change your host family for personal reasons within the contracted period, there will be a changing fee of \$210 (per time). We require at least 2 weeks notice in writing if you wish to change host families. If you decide to cancel the home stay during the contracted period for personal reasons, no money will be returned.

14 Extending your Home Stay

If you wish to extend your home stay during your stay please contact and check availability from ① Earthbeat, ② the host family at least 2 weeks prior to the completion of the current contracted period. If notify us of your intention to extend less than the 2 week period we cannot guarantee extension. If the family are able to extend at minimum notice we will gladly extend your homestay.

Please discuss your intention to extend firstly with Earthbeat and we will contact the family to confirm. Do not discuss this matter directly with the host family. Due to your family's circumstances it may not be possible to extend your stay over and above the initial stay period.

15 Payment of Home Stay when you are away for long periods at a time

If you wish to leave your host family to go on a holiday for a period of 1 week or more, it is possible to ask the host family's permission to hold your room. If agreeable, your room can be held at half the weekly fee. Please also provide Earthbeat with 2 weeks advance notice.



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16 Travelling time and distance from your host family's home

Australia's population is increasing rapidly and the cities are becoming densely populated, residential areas are spreading towards the suburbs. It has become necessary to find families who are able to host students in the suburbs. As a result travelling times increase. Please understand that in some cases it may take more than 1 hour to get to school/work by the public transport system.

17 Experiencing trouble during your Home Stay

Students may be asked to leave a home stay when

- An under age student smokes, or drinks alcohol
- Uses illegal drugs of any kind
- Excessively consumes alcohol and becomes drunk
- Deliberately breaks or steals the host family's property
- Acts violently towards a member of the host family
- Does not obey the family's rules or ignores them after receiving a warning.

Please note: All countries have different laws regarding the consumption of alcohol, smoking and drugs. In Australia the legal age for the consumption of alcohol is 18 years and over. If you are unsure it is advisable to maintain the rules you are accustomed to as well as ask regarding the consumption alcohol.

If you must consume alcohol, a responsible course of action is to discuss with your home-stay family that you wish to have a drink. This includes bringing friends home to consume alcohol, parties, staying over at other students homes and consuming alcohol. Please do not attempt to over indulge.

18 Earthbeat (Gytak International P/L) responsibilities

Earthbeat is an agent for the home stay program. Earthbeat does not accept any responsibility for any matters between the student and the host family.

- ✓ Including any injury, damage, loss, accident of any kind including financial, physical or psychological damage etc. You will be required to pay for any breakages or damage you have made towards the host's property.
- ✓ Trouble with the host family (theft, sexual harassment etc. will be directed to a third party.)

19 Payment

You must pay for your home-stay at Earthbeat. Earthbeat will handle all payments for you. Earthbeat will take care of any payment disputes that arise.



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20 Cancellations

After paying the booking fee of \$210;

- Cancellations made after the booking fee is paid will automatically attract a fee of 100% (\$210).
- Cancellations made within 2 weeks of the commencement date of the home-stay will require payment of one week's home-stay fee. (\$240)
- For cancellations after commencement and during the home stay period the booking fee will not be refunded and a cancellation fee of 2 weeks home stay fee also applies. These fees will be deducted from the amount held before you receive any refund.

21 Correspondence

All correspondence regarding your home-stay including reporting of problems, notification of changes to your home-stay period and other miscellaneous information should be directed to the Earthbeat home-stay coordinator;

Ms. Yuko Barnes

Mobile (cell): 0417-142-979

Email: yuko@earthbeat.net.au

22 Cancellations in extreme/emergency situations

In extreme/emergency situations (where you genuinely need to return home and can provide proof) the remainder or unused portion of the home stay payment will be refunded.

I/We have read and understand the above mentioned conditions and by signing this document agree to abide these rules and conditions during the contracted home-stay period.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ (day)/ _____ (month) / _____ (year).

Remember you are an Ambassador of your country whilst visiting Australia.

Please act appropriately.