

## Welcome to Australia!

We are so happy that you have chosen to come to Australia to study and to live with our GBS Homestay Families. They can't wait to meet you. We want you to have a great time and feel comfortable, so here are some **things to help you**.



**Transport** – your host family will show you where to catch the bus, train or tram. They will also help you get a transport card if needed. Ask your host for the website for public transport time tables. Use a taxi if it's late at night.



**Communication** – stay in contact with your host family; **call, text or use an app like Facebook, Line or WeChat**. Advise your host family *no later than 4pm* if you are going to be late or not coming home for dinner. Remember you are staying with a family - respect the house rules, and at night, return home at a respectful hour. Excessive drinking will not be well-looked upon.



**Bedroom** – turn down the blankets or doona on your bed and sleep underneath them to keep warm. No food or drinks other than water is allowed in your bedroom, as it attracts cockroaches. It is respectful to keep your room clean and tidy; pick up your clothes, empty your bin and make your bed. When you leave your room, be sure to turn off the fan and lights. Australia has a mild climate, and not all homes have air conditioning or heat; let your host know if you are too hot or too cold.



**Laundry** – normally done once a week. Your host family will show you how to use the washing machine, or they may wish to do the wash for you; they will advise. Your host will show you a place where you can wash/dry your delicates. Please do not hang wet clothes in your cupboard or in your room.



**Showers** – water in Australia is very precious and expensive, as we are a dry country. Please keep your shower time to **5 minutes**. Please also keep the bathroom clean, as you will be sharing it with other family members. Remember to wipe down the sink and shower basin after use. Thank you for helping us save water in Australia.



**Meal time** – breakfast and lunches (if lunch is in your meal plan) are normally self-served. Your host will show you where the food is kept. At dinner there's opportunity for you to practice English and converse with your homestay family. Your host will show you where the supermarket is so you can buy yourself some extra snacks if you would like. It's courteous to offer the host help with setting and/or clearing the table, and helping with dishes and cleaning the kitchen area.



**WiFi** – if your host is allowing you to use their WiFi, please be careful with your usage. You **MUST NOT download movies or music** as this will use up the data and/or slow down the internet speed.



**Keys** – your host family will give you a key to their home. Please be very careful not to lose the key, and keep it somewhere secure. If a key is lost, you may be required to pay for a replacement. Make sure you close and lock the door when you leave the house.



**Beaches** – Australia has many beautiful beaches. Please make sure you swim between the flags and only where there is a lifeguard. The ocean is very strong here and we want you to be safe and enjoy yourself. Many host families also have swimming pools; please don't swim alone.



**Safety** - Australia is a safe place to travel, but like any country, you need to take precautions to stay safe.

- Try to travel with a friend or in a group. Never hitch hike.
- Always plan your trip home, especially at night. Take enough money to get home.
- When you are out, keep your bag and belongings close to your body and where you can always see them.
- If you don't have a mobile phone, make sure you have a phone card or money to make a phone call.
- Use pedestrian walkways and cross the street at pedestrian crossings or lights.
- Leave valuables at home if you don't need them. Ensure valuables and cash are kept securely locked in your suitcase. This includes jewellery, electronic equipment such as iPads and your passport.
- Do not carry large amounts of money with you. You can access your money at ATMs found in shops, supermarkets, petrol stations, bars, shop fronts and many other public places.

**Call 000 in the event of an emergency.** Calls to 000 are free of charge.



**Contact Information** - make sure that you have the name, address and phone number of your host family. We recommend writing this down or keeping it in your phone. If you are lost or need to catch a taxi home, or need to contact your host family, you will have the information close.

GBS Homestay is here to help and support you, we want you to have a wonderful time and make unforgettable memories. **Have fun, be safe, and take lots of photos!**



Follow us on Facebook, share your photos and experience with us, we love to hear about your adventures in Australia and watch for updates and information on our page: [Facebook.com/gbshomestay](https://www.facebook.com/gbshomestay)

**Emergency After hours number ONLY: 07 31030332**