

Why you should become a host family to International Students!



Dear Future Host Families,

I have been a host mother for more than 17 years. We first opened our doors to international students after I arrived from the Netherlands to Perth, Australia, in 2008. Over the years, students from Germany, Korea, Italy and the Netherlands stayed in our home.

Once I started having my own children, we took a break from hosting. However, once both of my children started high school, the timing felt right to welcome international students into our home again. Since then, we have hosted students from Korea, Japan, Argentina, Vietnam, Indonesia and India.



The past few years have been incredibly rewarding and fun. Every student arrives with their own story, purpose and dreams, and they have all been a wonderful influence on my teenage children. Every student is different. Some arrive feeling very homesick, and together we work through those emotions by creating lists of activities to do in Perth, exploring the city and inviting former students back for meals so they can share their experiences and advice. Other students arrive excited and eager to begin their new life in Perth.

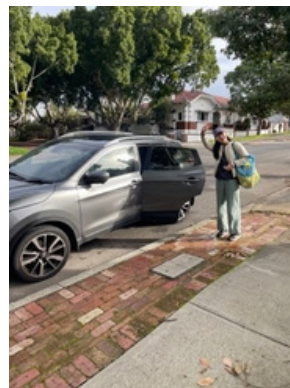
From day one, we focus on helping students feel independent and confident. We practise using public transport, organise transperth travel cards and help them learn how to navigate life as an independent student in a new country. Food is often one of the biggest concerns for students, so it is always lovely to see their relief when they enjoy the meals and become involved in cooking pizzas or preparing family dinners together.



One of the most rewarding parts of hosting is watching students grow in confidence, form friendships and find their own voice. It is wonderful to see them express themselves more openly, discover what they enjoy and succeed academically while improving their English skills.

There are always special experiences and adventures on the to-do list, including visits to the Zoo, the Pinnacles and Fremantle Prison. Of course, fish and chips at the beach while watching the sunset is something that can never be beaten.

I strongly recommend opening your home to international students. Hosting has inspired me to see life through many different perspectives and has shown me the kindness, courage and resilience that young people bring with them. We also make a strong effort to keep parents updated regularly, and when students leave, we organise a farewell dinner with cake and friends to celebrate their journey and achievements.



Every student I have hosted arrived with a strong purpose and a great deal of bravery. They all leave our doorstep stronger, more confident and, most importantly, with a much stronger and louder English language voice.

Mica (host mother), Remi (16) and Bowie (14)

