

## Welcome to Australia!

We are so happy that you have chosen to come to Australia to study and selected us for your accommodation. We want you to have a great time and feel comfortable, so here are some **things to help you**.



**Transport** – you can look online or ask your host where to catch the bus, train or tram. They can also assist you with getting a transport card if needed. There are public transport time tables online. Keep in mind that weekend timetables can differ from weekdays. Use a taxi or Uber if it's late at night.



**Communication** – stay in contact with your accommodation provider; they worry about you! **Call, text or use an app like Facebook, Line or WeChat.** If you are on a meal plan, advise your host family *no later than 4pm* if you are going to be late or not coming home for dinner. Remember to respect the house rules, and if late coming home at night to keep noise to a minimum. 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.



**Laundry** – normally done once a week. Your host 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. Please keep your shower time to **5 minutes**. Please keep the bathroom clean, as you will be sharing it with other family members. Remember to wipe down the sink and shower basin. Thank you for helping us save water in Australia.



**Meal time** – if you are on a meal plan, breakfast and lunches are normally self-served. Your host will show you where the food is kept. Your host will show you where the supermarket is located. It's courteous to offer the host help with setting and/or clearing the table, helping with dishes and cleaning the kitchen area. If you are not on a meal plan, your host will show you where you can keep your food & how to operate any kitchen appliances.



**WiFi** – please be careful with your usage in your accommodation. You **MUST NOT download movies or music** as this will use up the data, and slow down internet speed. Your education provider should have access to WiFi, and there are also many public areas that have free WiFi access.



**Keys** – your host family will give you a key to the 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 properties 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. 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, 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: <https://www.facebook.com/BNBforstudents/>

**Emergency ONLY - after hours number: 07 31030332**