



# International Student Program

# Student Handbook

Provider: Department of Education and Training (trading as Education Queensland International)  
CRICOS Number 00608A

## Corinda State High School

46 Pratten Street  
Corinda Queensland 4075

Phone: 07 3379 0222  
Fax: 07 3379 5869  
Email: [info@corindashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:info@corindashs.eq.edu.au)

[www.corindashs.eq.edu.au](http://www.corindashs.eq.edu.au)

**ISP EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS CONTACT**

0448 600 983

Corinda State High School warmly welcomes you as an international student at our school and recognises the important contribution you make to our school culture. It is our goal to ensure you are provided with all the support you require to make your Australian schooling experience worthwhile and rewarding.

Corinda State High has an excellent reputation as an inclusive, multicultural school with approximately 45 different cultures within our school. Our International Student Program enriches this even more.

Thank you for choosing Corinda State High School. We wish you every success with your studies and hope you have a rewarding and memorable experience at our school.



**Helen Jamieson**  
Executive Principal  
Corinda State High School

# Corinda SHS International Student Program

Corinda SHS offers two International Student Programs:

1. Study Abroad Program where students stay between 3 and 12 months. Students are often from Europe and wish to study at a High School in order to enhance their English language skills and experience Australian culture.
2. Graduate Program which is a 2 to 3 year academic program for students wanting to graduate and receive a QCE and/or OP to be eligible for University entry.

**Corinda SHS develops young people who can participate in a dynamic society, take responsibility, engage and contribute to the stewardship of the Earth.**

**VISION:** Corinda State High School - Exceed Your Expectations

**VALUES:** The school motto is "Hodie Quoque Cras"  
(Not only for today, but for tomorrow also).

The following values support the motto:

Curiosity, Personal Excellence, Self-Worth & Resilience, Inclusivity and A disciplined learning environment.

## **COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE:**

The key points of difference that distinguish Corinda from its competitors are, and will continue to be:

- Academic coaching
- Exceptional Teachers
- Strong Leadership which is shared
- One caring adult connects with every student
- Many and varied pathways
- School of choice for Science Innovation

**Phuong Nguyen**, an international graduate said, *"...the Corinda State High School International Team helped me so much. They took care of me, gave me great advice and showed me the best of Brisbane. I really appreciate their care. They were my second family here and I felt like I could talk to them about anything. Thanks for bringing out the best in me"*.

***Phuong Nguyen received an OP3 and is currently studying Optometry at QUT Gardens Point.***

# Corinda SHS International Student Program cont...

A team of support staff work tirelessly to ensure the educational and personal welfare of each International Student at Corinda State High School.

Corinda recognizes that each International Student is an individual and the International Program at Corinda SHS is tailored towards this. There is an individual student orientation on the first day at school, one-on-one meetings and get-to-know-you sessions, personalised letters and emails and a lot of face-to-face contact and conversation.

## **We understand the importance of relationship building.**

**Momoe Wajima**, a Japanese homestay student says, *"....I have had amazing days while studying at Corinda State High School. When I first came here, I didn't understand what people were talking about. At first my dream was just to make Australian friends and have conversations in English. Now I can laugh from the bottom of my heart. I could feel my English improving day by day. One day I was able to understand what my friends were saying, one day I was able to have a conversation with my friends and laugh! One day I dreamt in English! What a joy it is! I couldn't have done this without the support of my Australian school friends, teachers and homestay."*



Momoe from Japan is pictured (left) with Akari (right) also from Japan being introduced to Australian flora and fauna at the Mt Coottha Botanical Gardens.

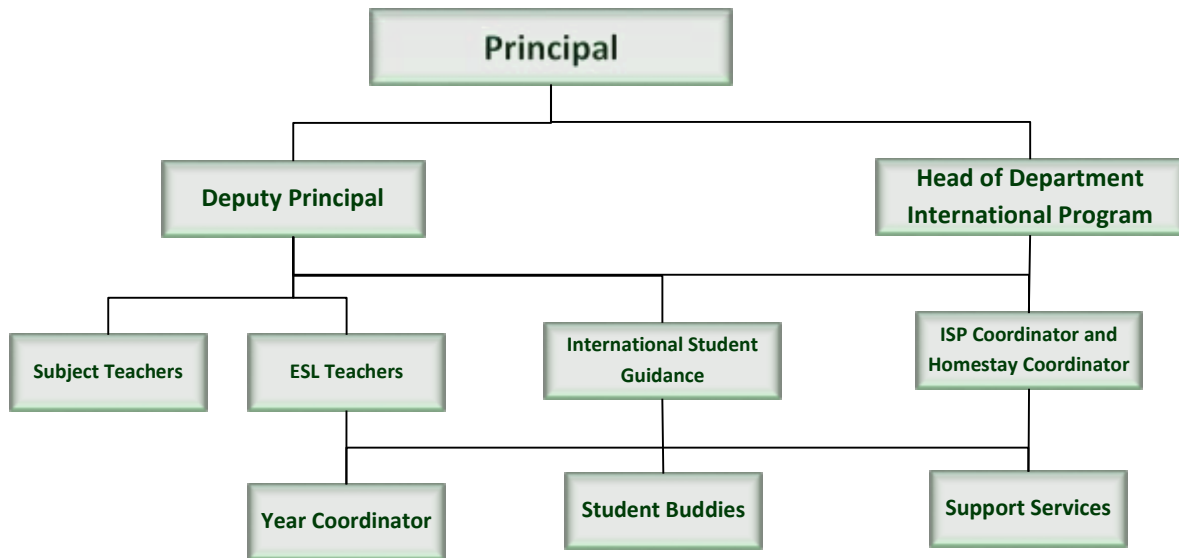


International Students from China, Vietnam, Italy and Germany with Miss Kylie and Miss Ozich cuddling a Koala at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.

# International Student Family Tree

This is the Corinda State High School International Family Tree.

Individual staff members and their contact details are on the following page.



**On the first day at school, you will be introduced to the key international staff and take part in Orientation.**

Corinda's State-of-the-art facilities will gradually become familiar and include the Science Innovation Centre, Agricultural Farm, Dance and Drama Studios, Indoor Sports Centre, Assembly Hall, Information Management Centre, Digital Classrooms including wireless network, computer access and video conferencing, healthy options canteen, sporting ovals and courts, the ISP office and meeting room and the first aide area.

**The Corinda State High School website is a wealth of information:**

[www.corindashs.eq.edu.au](http://www.corindashs.eq.edu.au)

[Facebook – Corinda State High School](#)

# School Contacts for International Students

## Administration

General Enquiries 07 3379 0222  
Absentee Line 07 3379 0290

## Key International Student Program (ISP) Staff

Ms Helen Jamieson 07 3379 0222 [principal@corindashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@corindashs.eq.edu.au)  
*Principal*

Mr Tom Bates 07 3379 0201 [tbate9@eq.edu.au](mailto:tbate9@eq.edu.au)  
*Deputy Principal  
ISP*

Ms Lisa Thompson 07 3379 0217 [lthom23@eq.edu.au](mailto:lthom23@eq.edu.au)  
*Head of Department*

Ms Janelle Peacock 07 3379 0216 [jpeac99@eq.edu.au](mailto:jpeac99@eq.edu.au)  
*Homestay Coordinator*

Ms Angela Braithwaite 07 3379 0216 [abrai35@eq.edu.au](mailto:abrai35@eq.edu.au)  
*ISP Coordinator*

## Guidance Officers

Ms Lis Clough 07 3379 0254 [lclou8@eq.edu.au](mailto:lclou8@eq.edu.au)  
Ms Annette Priest 07 3379 0266 [aprie2@eq.edu.au](mailto:aprie2@eq.edu.au)

## Senior Schooling

Ms Pia Horsfield 07 3379 0215 [phors3@eq.edu.au](mailto:phors3@eq.edu.au)  
Ms Sue Pedley 07 3379 0239 [spedl3@eq.edu.au](mailto:spedl3@eq.edu.au)

## Chaplain

Mr Jeff Thomson 07 3379 0222 [cthom768@eq.edu.au](mailto:cthom768@eq.edu.au)

## School Nurse – Youth Health Nurse

Ms Karin Rissel 07 3379 2207 [kriss6@eq.edu.au](mailto:kriss6@eq.edu.au)

## Youth Support Coordinator

Ms Rosalind Bowd 0430 343 627 [rbowd0@eq.edu.au](mailto:rbowd0@eq.edu.au)

**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY MOBILE NUMBER  
0448 600 983**

# Uniform Policy

Our school dress code is a reflection of the high standards we embrace at Corinda State High School. Students are expected to make a personal commitment to present themselves well, wear the complete school uniform at all times and to be clean and well groomed.

Please refer to the extensive Uniform Policy guidelines outlined in your orientation documents and very clearly on our school webpage [www.corindashs.eq.edu.au](http://www.corindashs.eq.edu.au)

# Tuckshop/Canteen

There is a school tuckshop where you can purchase food and drinks, both hot and cold, before school and at first and second breaks. Please see the full list of what is provided on our school webpage.

<https://corindashs.eq.edu.au/facilities/tuckshop/Pages/Tuckshop.aspx>



*Fresh produce from our vegetable garden (left); and collecting honey from our bees (right)*



*Students with the school Farmer and some sheep from our Farm*

# The School Day

## BELL TIMES AND EVENTS

Time	Event	Bell/music
8:30am	Get ready for form class or assembly	Music sounds
8:40am	Form class or assembly beings	No bell
8:50am	Period 1	No bell
10:00am	Period 2	Bell sounds
11:10am	First Break	No Bell
11:55am	Signal for start of Period 3	Music sounds
11:55am	Period 3	No Bell
1.05pm	Second Break	No Bell
1:40pm	Signal for start of Period 4	Music sounds
1:40pm	Period 4	No Bell

**Please note that the Friday timetable changes slightly to include an Academy subject in the morning:**

8:40am – 8:50am	Form class
8:50am – 10:00am	Period 1 Academy class
10:00am – 10:35am	First Break
10:35am – 11:45am	Period 2
11.45am – 12.55pm	Period 3
12.55pm – 1.40pm	Second Break
1.40pm – 2.50pm	Period 4
2.50pm	End of day



A very happy group of Japanese International Students.



# Important Information

## Lesson Timetable

The International Student Coordinator will explain to you how to read your lesson timetable. At first you may find your timetable difficult to understand. It is important you ask your teachers if there is anything you do not understand.

## School Reports

As an International Student, you will receive a School Report at the end of each school Term. A copy of each report is sent to:

- Your parents
- Your agent
- You

## Textbooks

Any textbooks you require will be provided by the school. The cost of hiring these books has been included in your school fees.

All books loaned to you must be returned at the end of the school year in good condition. It is your responsibility to return all books to the school. You will pay for any books that are not returned to the school or are returned in poor condition.

## Excursions, camps, trips

As an overseas student, you do not have to pay for compulsory excursions, trips or camps. The cost of these is included in your school fees.

You will have to pay for excursions, trips or camps that are optional and not a compulsory part of your academic program.

## School Internet Use

Students must sign a Network and Internet Access Agreement Contract which requires all students to use the school's computer facilities in a responsible manner. Students who misuse

information technology resources will have their privileges withdrawn.

Students are only permitted to use the internet for educational purposes.

The Education Queensland school email, Webmail, is only to be used during school hours for school purposes. Webmail must be checked regularly as staff will communicate with you via Webmail. You may use Webmail for communication with your family and friends, but only during non-class times.

## Mobile phones – keep your valuables SAFE.

Please follow these directions:

### DO NOT

Have your phone turned on or visible at school;  
Answer your phone, make calls or text during school hours;

Leave your phone unattended in your school bag. A suggestion is to keep it concealed in a pencil case or in your pocket.

### DO

Keep your phone charged;

Always have credit on your phone;

Go to the International Student Office if you need to make an urgent call.



# Important Information continued...

**Cigarettes, e-cigarettes, tobacco, matches and lighters must not be brought to school.**

**Students must not smoke while travelling to and from school, or at any school organised activity or function.**

It is school policy that students who smoke at school or while travelling to and from school will be suspended.

## **Driving**

The legal driving age in Australia is 17. International students can drive on an International licence for 3 months, but then must take the test to obtain a Queensland licence. Heavy fines apply for students found to be driving on an International Licence after 3 months.

## **Bicycles**

If you are riding a bicycle you must wear a bike helmet or you will be fined.

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

It is illegal to drink alcohol until you are 18 years of age in Australia. Nightclubs and bars require identification to prove you are 18 years old before entering. It is illegal for persons under 18 years of age to purchase alcohol.

## **Work**

**You are permitted to work, but it must not affect school participation or results.** If you are in years 8, 9 or 10, you must work in accordance with the Queensland *Child Employment Regulation 2006*.

It is advisable not to apply for work until you are settled into a routine with school and living in Australia.

## **Problems or difficulties**

If you don't understand something, get advice quickly so it does not become a big problem. Remember we are here to help you have an enjoyable experience while studying and living in Brisbane.

## **Grievance Procedures**

If you are unhappy with any aspect of your program, please notify the International Student Coordinator, the Guidance Officer, the Head of Department for the International Student Program and then the Principal. There is a form you can complete if you have a grievance.

If problems continue or you continue to be unhappy with the situation, you can contact the Director of EQI. For more detail, please see EQI's **Complaints and Appeals Procedure**, a link of which you will find at the end of this booklet.

Guidance and counselling is also available to you through the school's Guidance Officer.



*International students enjoying some leisure time together*

# Student Responsibilities

**A link to the Education Queensland International Terms and Conditions is included at the end of this handbook. It details your responsibilities as an International Student.**

To be enrolled in a school or stay in Australia, your visa must be current. All international students must meet important visa conditions. They are outlined in detail below:

## **Attendance**

You are expected to maintain 100% attendance unless you are sick with a medical certificate.

Two half day absences add up to one full day absence.

Medical certificates must be provided to the school within 5 days of your absence.

The school keeps records of your attendance. If you are absent for 2-3 days, you will be asked to attend an interview with the ISP Coordinator. If you are absent for 4-5 days, you will be issued with a warning letter and a meeting will be arranged with the HOD of the ISP Program, the Guidance Officer or the Principal. If you are absent for 7-8 days, you will be issued with a second warning letter and will be required to meet with EQI.

**Your form teacher will mark the form roll every morning during form class. In addition, your class teacher will mark a class roll during each lesson.**

## ***If you are absent:***

1. Ask your homestay parent/guardian to telephone the school absentee line on 3379 0290 and leave your full name, form class and student ID number; and
2. Bring a note the next day you return to school signed by your homestay parent/guardian explaining why you were absent and give this note to your form teacher.

## **Payment of fees**

All international students pay their fees to EQI. EQI issues invoices per Term and students are required to pay their fees prior to commencing the Term.

## **Academic progress**

You will be expected to maintain satisfactory progress in all subjects as part of your visa conditions.

***A failing grade (D or less) in more than one subject will result in a warning letter and an interview. A continuation of unsatisfactory progress may result in you being contacted by EQI or DIBP.***

## **Other responsibilities**

The school, EQI and DIBP must know your contact details at all times while you are in Australia. For this reason you must always leave a contact number with your homestay family if you are going out.

***You must inform the school, EQI and DIBP of any change of address details within 7 days of the change.*** You must be contactable on holidays and weekends and not change your address without permission from the International Student Program staff.



*Jan Budd an International Student from Germany getting to know a Rainbow Lorikeet at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.*

# Emergency Procedures & Other Support Services

## SCHOOL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

If there is an emergency at school, an alarm will signal the type of emergency and students will be told what to do by their class teacher. Students should follow teachers' directions at all times.

**Fire Drill and Alarm** – Each term the school will conduct a fire drill so that students understand the necessary procedures. An alarm will sound (*whoooooooooop, whoooooooooop, whoooooooooop*). Students are to stop work and leave their belongings in the room. They must then move briskly and quietly, under the supervision of their class teacher, to the main school oval.

**Lockdown** – A lockdown procedure is used in response to a potentially dangerous situation (eg. an aggressive intruder etc). Each semester the school will conduct a lockdown procedure. An alarm will sound in short bursts (*beep, beep, beep*) starting softly and getting louder. Students are to remain in classrooms or move quickly to the nearest classroom and follow teachers' directions. Doors and windows must be shut and locked and students should remain out of sight until a block supervisor advises that it is safe.

**In an EMERGENCY outside of school dial 000 any time day or night for Fire, Police or Ambulance.**

**The operator will ask you the town (Brisbane) and State (Queensland) you are calling from.**

**Wait to be connected.**

## COUNSELLING & YOUTH ISSUES

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800  
([www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au))

Lifeline 13 11 14

Headspace Inala 3727 5000

Inala Youth & Family Support Service  
3372 4435

Yeronga Kids in Mind 3163 8188

Inala Kids in Mind 3372 5577

## HEALTH

13 HEALTH (24 health information and advice)  
13 43 25 84

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital  
3068 1111  
24 hour Emergency Centre

Corinda Medical Centre  
3379 1303  
Mon-Fri 7:30am to 5:00pm  
Sat 8:00am to 12noon

Taringa 7 Day Medical Practice  
3870 7239  
Mon-Sun 7:00am to 11:00pm



# Private Health Cover & Banking

## Health Cover

### Overseas Health Cover (OSHC)

It is a visa requirement that your OSHC is kept current. Your OSHC is provided by **Allianz Global Assistance**. Your cover helps cover **some** of the cost of medical treatment while you are in Australia. It will contribute towards the costs of out of hospital and in hospital medical treatment, prescription medications and emergency ambulance assistance. Included in your cover is access to a 24 hour emergency help-line.

An Allianz Global Assistance card will be issued to you within 3 weeks of your arrival in Australia. See the International Student Coordinator if your card is not issued within this time. Your card must be kept current and paid in full for the length of your stay otherwise you will be in breach of your visa requirements.

When you go to the doctor or health provider (eg. dentist), you will need to pay for the service and obtain a receipt in order to obtain reimbursement. You can either lodge a claim for reimbursement online or via post. Go to [https://www.oshcallianzassistance.com.au/about\\_oshc.aspx](https://www.oshcallianzassistance.com.au/about_oshc.aspx) for information on how to lodge a claim.

You will be reimbursed for part of the medical or health service cost.

## Medication

If you require medication when you are sick, the doctor will supply you with a prescription that allows you to obtain medication. This can be bought from any pharmacy/chemist.

If you need to take medication at school, you must take this to the First Aid Officer with instructions from your doctor.

Please note that we are not able to administer any headache, pain or other type of medication at school without a prescription.

## Banking

To open an Australian Bank Account you will need to present your passport and possibly some other identification.

Most banks and Building Societies have telephone banking, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) and branch access.

Once your account is opened you will receive in the mail a **card and PIN** (personal identification number), which should not be disclosed to anyone.

If your parents wish to transfer funds into your account you will need to provide them with the local branch number (BSB), your account number and the name of your account.

To withdraw funds you may go to any number of ATMs including ATMs that are serviced by other banks. Please note there will be a larger fee (eg. \$2.50) associated with withdrawing funds from an ATM belonging to another bank other than the one you have an account with.



# Banking, Transport and Phones

**Bank Hours:** Mon to Thurs 9:30am to 4pm and Friday 9:30am to 5pm.

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in Australia as are American Express and Diners Club (to a lesser extent).

**Do not carry large sums of money at school.**

Post offices are also agents for various banks and Building Societies.

## Transport

Your Australian family will be able to provide you with directions to the nearest bus stop. They can also advise you about the **best transport routes** for travel to and from school, the city and local shops.

For **train/bus/ferry times** contact Translink - ph: 13 12 30 or [www.translink.com.au](http://www.translink.com.au)

Your Australian family will help organise a travel card for you – this is called a GO Card.



*International students enjoying a day at Surfers Paradise Beach, one of Queensland's iconic beaches.*

**Corinda State High School has a policy of no mobile phones/electronic devices (including earphones) at school.**

*Please note there are certain public places where it is not acceptable to use a mobile phone: eg. movie theatres, schools, libraries, public performances.*

You are able to purchase Telstra phone cards from newsagencies. These allow you to call overseas from any phone (private & public).

**Use your phone cards while living with your homestay family. Phone calls are not included in your Homestay Payment Fee.**

Also check with your homestay family about **internet use and payment** as this is also not included with your Homestay Payment Fee.



## Post Offices

There are many post offices located around the Brisbane area.

The opening hours of suburban post offices vary, but most are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and some are open on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Check [www.auspost.com.au](http://www.auspost.com.au) for details.

# What to do when...

## ***I arrive late:***

Report to the office with a note from your parent or guardian, for a late slip. Late arrivals must always present a late slip to the teacher before being admitted to the classroom.

## ***Absent for part of the day:***

You must have a note from your parent or guardian requesting permission to leave school at a specific time. Report to the office before school and a Deputy Principal will sign your planner. At the time of departure, you must report to the office to swipe out.

## ***I have lost/misplaced something at school:***

Check with the HPE staffroom staff or the Sick Bay in D Block at Lunch time as this is where lost property is sent.

## ***I am hurt or feeling unwell....***

In class, inform your teacher who will give you a note to report to First Aide/Sick Bay in D Block. You are to report to First Aide where you will sign in at the First Aide Room. In cases of a more serious injury, have someone notify the office immediately. The office will make arrangements for you.

## ***I need to see the Guidance Officer/School Nurse/Chaplain/HOD Senior Schooling....***

You should make an appointment at the Student Services before visiting any support staff. A date and time will be given the teacher whose lesson you will miss.

## ***I am not in correct uniform:***

If you are not wearing correct uniform you should bring a note of explanation from a parent. Bring this note with your School Planner

to your Year Co-ordinator office in Block D between 8.15am and 8.30am each day where it will be stamped and signed.

## ***I need to pay monies:***

All payments must be made at the finance office in D block.



*Lily from Germany feeding a Kangaroo*

# Homestay

***It is expected that you will be openly welcomed into the family unit in a friendly and supportive manner. It is also expected that you will be an active and involved member of the family.***

Living with an Australian family is an excellent opportunity to experience a different culture and improve your English. Your homestay family will provide you with a fully furnished bedroom where you can store your belongings and an area for you to study. You will also have access to the remainder of the home, including the kitchen, laundry and living areas.

Your homestay family will chat to you about household chores/tasks and meal times. It is expected that all household members help out at home. Some chores may include helping with food preparation, keeping your bedroom clean, washing and/or ironing.

## **Meals**

A typical Australian breakfast is cereal (served with milk), toast, fruit and/or eggs. Please wake early enough to allow time to enjoy a healthy breakfast before leaving for school.

Australian lunches are often sandwiches (2 slices of bread with fillings), fruit, a cold drink and something sweet such as a slice of cake or savoury such as crackers.

Dinner is generally the largest meal of the day and shared. Enjoy getting to know your homestay family at this time.

***Let your homestay know if there are certain foods you like or dislike so they know what to buy when shopping for groceries.***

Australian families eat a wide variety of food influenced by other cultures and cooking styles. The change in your diet may require an adjustment though. Your homestay can take you grocery shopping to choose your own food and

snacks. You may also like to cook food from your country to share with them.

## **Expressing Emotions and Manners**

Australians tend to express their emotions openly. Your family has been given information about your culture and is keen to get to know you. Please do not spend all of your time at home in your bedroom on the computer. It is very important to make the effort to get to know your family.

***Manners are very important in Australian culture. Please remember that when you ask for something say, "...may I please have..." and when you receive something say, "Thank you".***

It is not good manners to make noises such as slurping when you eat or to talk with your mouth full of food. Show appreciation by saying thank you.

Brisbane can be very hot and humid. Make sure you drink plenty of water.

Homestay accommodation provides a safe and supportive environment while you are studying in Australia. Be patient in your early days in your Homestay. It takes everyone a little while to settle in – both you and your Homestay family.

## **Changes to Accommodation**

It is a 500 Visa requirement that you do not change your accommodation without the school's approval. EQI has been asked by your parents to find you a homestay family. Homestay accommodation is a part of the EQI offer and visa conditions. If changes are made without approval, EQI and DIBP will need to be notified and your visa could be cancelled.



# Homestay continued...

## Bathrooms and Toilets

Australian's are generally conscious of water conservation and families may limit the amount of water used in the household.

When Australian's bathe, they usually do so in the bath or shower so water does not splash on the floor.

Your homestay will talk to you about using their bathroom and will provide you with towels.

You will need to buy soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other personal toiletry items.

## Keeping your host family informed

Australian teenagers are quite independent, although parents would normally expect to be told where they are going, who they are going with, what they will be doing and the time they will be home.

It is very important that International Students let their homestay know these things also.

Most parents set a time when children must return home, especially at night. Sometimes they set a time for going to sleep.

Students travel to school either by walking, riding a bicycle or catching public transport such as a train or bus. Travel information was provided earlier in this manual.

Australian teenagers often invite their friends to their home. This is done with permission from their parents. International students can do this also however you must ask your homestay first.

If you spend most of your time in your room with the door closed, the homestay family may think you do not like them or that you are unhappy. Spend some time each day with the family

talking, watching TV or helping the family with household tasks.

Tell your homestay about your culture and find out about theirs.

If you are unhappy and wish to change homestay or move house, you must inform your homestay parents and the International Staff immediately. It may take some time to locate another suitable homestay for you.

## Weekend Activities

Weekends are a great time for you to participate in activities with your homestay, classmates and other friends. Get out there and make the most of your experience in Queensland!

Dreamworld, Movieworld, Seaworld, and Australia Zoo are only a 45 minute drive from Corinda and accessible via public transport. Corinda is close to three major shopping centres (malls), each accessible by public transport and open 7 days a week. See <http://translink.com.au/>

***Corinda is only 10 km from the City! The Gold Coast is 45 minutes away and the Sunshine Coast is one hour north of Corinda.***

# Homestay advice and individual experiences

## Some advice regarding Homestay

Consider the family you are living with as they feel responsible for you. Please ring your homestay family and let them know if you are going to be late home.

It is polite to let your homestay know if you will not be home for meals. It is also polite to ask your homestay family if you can help with household tasks.

Please give your homestay family your mobile phone number. When you are not at home with your homestay family, your mobile phone must be on at all times (excluding school time).

## Some Homestay Experiences



Mike, a Chinese Student with a Corinda homestay family, the Schoonbeek's.

Each International Student living with a Corinda Homestay Family has their own story and each one benefits so much from the love and care the families provide.

The Schoonbeek Family share the following about Homestay with Corinda SHS, "... This weekend we went on a houseboat on the Gold Coast. We visited South Stradbroke Island for a walk and swim and had to row in a little boat to get to the beach. At night we anchored the boat

*in the waters at Sovereign Island. We had a great time."*



Akari from Japan (left) and Chawin from Thailand (right) with Myra Young, their homestay Mother.

Myra Young pictured above says, "...Akari has been living with me 18 months now and she is an absolute delight. When she first arrived she was extremely shy but day by day she has gained confidence and has become like my own daughter. She became Volley Ball Captain in 2013 and was selected for the Met West Team. Recently when she came back from her holidays in Japan, I asked her if she had a good time. She told me she missed her friends at Corinda SHS and she couldn't wait to get back to school to see them and her teachers. To me this speaks volumes about Corinda SHS and the International Program they provide. Both Chawin and Akari want to attend University in Brisbane after graduating Grade 12 at Corinda SHS. We have a great balanced home and are one happy family."

# Staying with an Australian Family - etiquette

- Find out if you need to ask before making any telephone calls. Keep your calls short when using your homestay's phone. Talking on the homestay phone for a long time is impolite and not acceptable.
- Students are not to use the internet all night. If you're allowed to use the family's computer and internet, be polite and ask before you start using it. Restrictions will be made if students abuse internet usage. You may be asked by your homestay family to pay an agreed amount per month for internet access.
- Students should not use any phones late at night as this will disturb other members of the household.
- As a general rule, you should not take food into bedrooms.
- Keep your bedroom neat and tidy as well as the bathroom. Make sure you pick up your towels and clothing.

## Other things to note:

The way Australian families live may be different to the way you live in your home country. The most important thing to remember if you are unsure of what is expected, ask your homestay family. They will let you know what their expectations and rules are.

## Helpful questions to ask you homestay family

- What would you like me to call you?
- What do you expect me to do daily/would you like me to help with chores?
- Where do I put my dirty washing?
- Can I use the washing machine to do my own washing or iron at any time?
- Can I help myself to food and drink at any time?
- Are there 'private' areas in the house?
- Can I move my bedroom furniture around if I wish?
- Is there a special getting up time on weekends?
- Is there a bedtime?
- Can I invite friends around?
- What are the rules for using the telephone/computer.
- What time am I expected home on the weekends?
- Can I use household appliances when I wish?
- When and how loud can I play music?
- What are the procedures with keys, access and security?
- How do I use appliances eg. TV etc.

# Staying with an Australian Family – travel permission & communication tips

## Permission to travel/Staying at other accommodation while living at homestay accommodation

As with staying at friends' homes while living at homestay accommodation, you are required to complete a Travel Consent Form if you wish to travel within Australia.

As part of your EQI offer, you must obtain written permission from your parents if you wish to travel within Australia or stay away from your homestay family (in most cases). You can get copies of the Travel Consent Form from the International Student Coordinator.

If you are going to stay overnight at a friend's home, you must check that the family is a homestay family or a family of Corinda State High School. If this is the case, you do not have to obtain permission from your parents.

However your homestay family and your host family must grant permission for you to stay.



International students who stayed at Tangalooma Island Resort on Moreton Island.

## Tips for communicating in Australia

Examples of how to begin a sentence when:

- Talking politely:

*Excuse me (before you do or ask something)*

*Sorry (to apologise)*

*Thank you (to express gratitude)*

*Please (when asking for something)*

- Offering to help or do something:

*Do you mind if I...?*

*May I...?*

*Would you like me to...?*

- Asking for help:

*Excuse me, can you help me...?*

*Excuse me, could you explain...?*

- Examples of things you may ask your teachers during class:

*Excuse me, may I go to the toilet please?*

*Excuse me, can I please come to see you at lunchtime about my assignment?*

*Excuse me, I didn't understand that. Can you please explain it to me again?*

# Staying with an Australian Family – culture shock

It is normal to feel nervous when you first meet your homestay family. Talking to your homestay family about any worries or questions you have when you arrive will help you to adjust to living in a new country.

If you are not confident speaking English, you can still communicate using:

- Google translate
- Draw pictures
- Use hand gestures
- Ask another student to interpret for you

Please remember, the International Staff at Corinda State High School are here to help you at any time.

## Culture Shock

An adjustment period is very normal. Some symptoms of culture shock include: poor sleep, eating problems, illness, homesickness, loneliness, boredom, isolation, hostility, withdrawal.

Please do not worry if you suffer culture shock! There is support available to you during your adjustment period. Here are some options and strategies that may help you adjust:

- Talk to your host family
- Meet with your International Student Co-ordinators and/or Guidance Officer
- Phone home!
- Keep yourself busy by meeting new people and finding out what there is to do and see in your new location.
- Talk to other International students. What you are feeling is normal.



## Fun tips....

Once you have settled into your Corinda school life, you will be ready to see some more of Brisbane and perhaps Australia.

EQI organise some fantastic trips during the school holiday periods. We will supply you with information when you arrive and during the year. This information can also be found on EQI's website:

<https://www.eqi.com.au/programs/adventure-programs.html>

Think seriously about attending these if you are able. They are all EQI approved and you will have a chance to meet other International Students studying in Australia.

We also recommend you check out the following for some more tips about Brisbane – what's on and where to go:

<http://www.studybrisbane.com.au/>

The Brisbane City Council puts this wonderful guide together for our International Students visiting Brisbane – it's a wealth of fantastic information

<http://sunnybankplaza.com.au/>

Described as the 'Chinatown' of the Southside and is easy to get to from Corinda and surrounds. Extensive international dining and entertainment precinct.

<http://indooroopillyshopping.com.au/>

This is your closest major shopping mall. You will find movies, food, entertainment, specialty shops plus major retailers. A great place for you to meet up with friends and it is on the train line.

<http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/>

This is the Brisbane City Council website. It is a wealth of information including parks, libraries, free entertainment, markets and festivals.

<http://visitbrisbane.com.au/Travel/Default.aspx>

Your ultimate guide to all the things you can see in and around our beautiful city of Brisbane.

<http://brisbanegreeters.com.au/>

This is a FREE service run by volunteers who love Brisbane. They will meet and greet you and pride themselves in sharing Brisbane's best spots, while introducing you to our great city.

<http://visitsouthbank.com.au/>

A wonderful part of Brisbane for you to visit on the weekends. Walk, talk, shop at the markets, people-watch, visit GOMA (Gallery of Modern Art), free entertainment, festivals – Southbank is a great place to frequent.

## Student Terms & Conditions

For a copy of Education Queensland International's full Terms & Conditions, please refer to the website: <https://eqi.com.au/PDFs/eqi-standard-terms-and-conditions.pdf>



## Complaints and Appeals Procedure

Please follow the link <https://eqi.com.au/for-students/policies-procedures/complaints-appeals> to access the complaints and appeals section of the EQI website and talk to the relevant people about your concerns.

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CRICOS	Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students
DIBP	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection
EQI	Education Queensland International
ESL	English as a Second Language
ISC	International Student Coordinator
ISP	International Student Program
EALD	English as an additional language or dialect