



## **Ursula Frayne Catholic College**

### **Welfare Arrangements of International Students Policy**

Ursula Frayne Catholic College will ensure that arrangements for all our International Students are in place for their accommodation, support and general welfare for the period of the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) plus seven days after the end date of the CoE.

Where the College terminates, suspends or cancels the enrolment of a student under the age of 18, the College will continue to check suitability of care arrangements until:

- a. the Nominated Welfare Period expires;
- b. the student turns 18 years old;
- c. the student is accepted by another registered provider who is willing to take on responsibility for approving the care arrangements;
- d. the student leaves Australia or other suitable arrangements are made (e.g. parent or other suitable relative takes ongoing responsibility for the student's accommodation and welfare); or
- e. events have occurred that make it impossible for the provider to continue to approve the arrangements for the student.

### **Changes to Student Welfare Arrangements Previously Agreed by Ursula Frayne Catholic College**

A student is not permitted to change their agreed accommodation or welfare arrangements unless first approved by the International Student Co-ordinator.

Failure to comply with this enrolment requirement will be considered grounds for the College to notify DIBP of its 'withdrawal of approval of accommodation and welfare arrangements' which may have implications for the student's visa.

DIBP will be notified when the student changes accommodation and welfare arrangements with the approval of Ursula Frayne Catholic College.

If a student refuses to maintain Ursula Frayne Catholic College approved care arrangements, the College will notify DIBP using the 'Non-Approval of Appropriate Accommodation/Welfare Arrangements Letter' which is likely to result in the cancellation of the student's visa.

If a student has gone missing from the approved accommodation and cannot be contacted, Ursula Frayne Catholic College will:

- a. implement its documented Critical Incident Policy; and

- b. if after a reasonable period the student has not been found, the College shall report the student's breach of visa condition 8532 to DIBP, which is likely to result in the cancellation of the student's visa.

### **Application for Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements**

A student who will be under 18 at course commencement and will not be staying with parents, a custodian or other family member while in Australia must provide the College with a written request (which has been approved by their parents or legal custodian in writing), for the College to accept responsibility for the student's accommodation, support and welfare arrangements until they reach the age of 18.

Requests to the College to approve accommodation and welfare arrangements will be considered by the nominated International Student Co-ordinator who will respond in writing to the student advising whether the request has been successful or not.

Where the College agrees to accept responsibility for the student's accommodation, support and welfare arrangements, the International Student Co-ordinator will arrange for the student to be advised in writing and given an outline of the accommodation and support arrangements which will be made for them. The College will also direct the student to the information contained in this policy and to the procedures that the student must follow to ensure compliance with this policy.

Ursula Frayne Catholic College must ensure that when a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) on PRISMS for a student has been submitted, the College has accepted responsibility for accommodation and welfare arrangements. They also notify DIBP of the College's role by raising a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation/Welfare Arrangements (CAAW) letter.

The CAAW must specify start and end dates of the accommodation and welfare arrangements. The student cannot enter Australia on their student visa until the welfare start date has been reached and this date must be carefully matched to orientation commencement and the time taken to travel from the home country.

The end date of the welfare arrangements will normally be advised as 7 days after the end date of the CoE, or when the student has reached their 18th birthday if that is earlier.

### **Homestay Accommodation**

Where the College agrees to accept responsibility for approving a student's welfare arrangements, it will require the student to stay in College approved homestay accommodation. The College must ensure:

- a. the good character of the homestay providers by obtaining working with children checks, personal interviews and verifying references;
- b. a good standard of homestay accommodation suitable for students, through home inspections undertaken by the International Student Co-ordinator for students' homestay;

- c. an appropriate cross-cultural and student welfare focused orientation provided to homestay providers by Ursula Frayne Catholic College and
- d. the maintenance of processes to monitor and respond to students wellbeing in the homestay placements approved by the College, including regular visits to homestay providers.

The College will require the student to maintain a high standard of personal and social behaviour throughout the homestay period, to conduct themselves responsibly, to refrain from risk taking behaviour and to devote themselves properly to their studies.

Refusal to obey an instruction from the homestay provider with regards aspects of behaviour and personal conduct will provide grounds for the College to advise DIBP that it has withdrawn its support for the accommodation and welfare arrangements. This may have implications for the student's visa.

The College must also advise DIBP as soon as possible using the specified PRISMS pro forma letter, in the event that the under-18 year old student has changed his or her living arrangements or where the College no longer approves of the arrangements for the student. The College may approve requests from students for alternative accommodation or welfare arrangements other than College approved homestay where:

- a. the student's parents or custodian approve in writing of the alternative arrangements;
- b. the College is satisfied as to the good character of the adult(s) who are to be assigned guardianship of the student;
- c. the accommodation has been inspected by the International Student Co-ordinator and found to be suitable;
- d. it is satisfied that the arrangements will provide accommodation and welfare arrangements at least equivalent to what could be obtained through a College approved homestay arrangement; and
- e. the arrangement is secure and likely to last until the student completes their course, or turns 18.