



## **Accommodation and Welfare Policy**

### **Care for younger students under 18 years**

Scotch Oakburn College is a CRICOS registered provider which enrolls younger students under 18 years of age.

As part of its registration obligations Scotch Oakburn College must satisfy Commonwealth and State legislation, as well as any other regulatory requirements, relating to child welfare and protection for any overseas student enrolled who is under 18 years of age.

These obligations include ensuring that all overseas students under 18 years of age are given age and culturally appropriate information on:

- Who to contact in emergency situations, including contact number/s of a nominated staff member, and
- How to seek assistance and report any incident or allegation involving actual or alleged sexual, physical or other abuse.

Scotch Oakburn College has documented procedures relating to child welfare and safety, and will implement these procedures in the event that there are any concerns for the welfare of a student under 18 years of age.

### **Accommodation and care options for overseas students under 18 years**

#### **1. The student will live in College approved accommodation and welfare arrangements and Scotch Oakburn College will generate the welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS to accompany the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).**

The Scotch Oakburn College Boarding House is the accommodation option that may be approved by Scotch Oakburn College for full fee paying 500 visa subclass students under 18 years of age.

Scotch Oakburn College will maintain approval of accommodation and care arrangements until:

- i. The student completes the course and departs Australia
- ii. The student turns 18 years
- iii. Any appeals processes in relation to Scotch Oakburn College's intentions to cancel the student's enrolment has been finalised (including suspensions, cancellations, course progress and attendance)
- iv. The student has alternative welfare arrangements approved by another registered provider
- v. A parent assumes care of the student
- vi. Scotch Oakburn College has notified the Department of Immigration that it is no longer able to approve the student's welfare arrangements and has taken the required action after not being able to contact the student.

Any accommodation, welfare and other support arrangements for the student must be approved by Scotch Oakburn College, including arrangements provided by third parties.

Accommodation and care arrangements are checked prior to approval and at least every six months thereafter to ensure they are appropriate to the student's age and needs.

Any adults involved in or providing accommodation and welfare arrangements to the student must have a Working with Vulnerable People check.

Any changes to approved arrangements must also be approved by the College.

If a student cannot be located and the College has concerns for his/her welfare, the College will contact the student's parents / legal guardian and notify the police and any other relevant authorities.

If a student for whom the College has issues a CAAW refuses to maintain approved arrangements, the College will report this to the Department of Immigration and advise the student to contact the Department of Immigration to ensure visa implications are understood. (See Department of Immigration offices addresses at: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations/australia>).

In the event of a significant or critical welfare issue involving the student, and if determined necessary by the College, a parent, legal guardian or approved relative agrees to travel to a designated location within five (5) days to assume care of the student until the situation has been resolved to the College's satisfaction.

If a parent / nominated guardian wishes to assume welfare responsibility, the parent / nominated guardian must notify the College as soon as practicable of their intentions and must provide the College with written evidence of a guardian visa grant.

## **2. The student will live with a parent or relative approved by the Department of Immigration.**

In this case:

- i. The College does not provide a welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS. The student's family completes Form 157N and provides proof of relationship to the Department of Immigration at the time of visa application for approval of these arrangements. The Department of Immigration must also approve any further change of welfare arrangements.
- ii. If the adult responsible for the welfare, accommodation and other support arrangements for a student under 18 years holds a [Student Guardian Visa \(subclass 590\)](#), all obligations and conditions of this visa must be met, including:
  - Not leaving Australia without the nominated student unless there are compassionate and compelling circumstances and the College has first approved alternative welfare and accommodation arrangements for the student for the adult's period of absence, and
  - Advising the Department of Immigration of any change of address, passport or other changes of circumstances.

Scotch Oakburn College requires holders of Student Guardian Visas to:

- i. Maintain Overseas Visitor Health Cover for themselves and any dependent children living with them in Australia
- ii. Immediately advise the College of any change to address or contact details

- iii. Immediately advise the College if there are any compassionate or compelling reasons to travel overseas or not be at home for an extended period of time to care for the student.

If there is a valid reason for travelling overseas, and the College is able to approve alternative accommodation and care arrangements for the student for the period of the student guardian visa holder's absence, the College will provide documentation approving temporary care arrangements for the student to the student's guardian and for the Department of Immigration via PRISMS.

If there is not a valid reason for travelling overseas, or if the College is not able to approve alternative accommodation and care arrangements for the student for the period of the student guardian visa holder's absence, the student will need to travel overseas with the holder of the student guardian visa. In this case, the College will advise if compulsory attendance requirements will or will not be affected by the student's absence.

**For College vacation periods, students under 18 years of age for whom Scotch Oakburn College has issued a CAAW will:**

- i. Return home to parents, or
- ii. Is placed in Homestay arranged and approved by the College, or
- iii. Apply for approval to spend the vacation with relatives or a friend's family

**For College vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available for students 18 years or older:**

- I. Returns home to parents
- II. Is placed in Homestay, details of which are recorded by the College
- III. Spend vacation with friend's family or relatives, provided details are given and permission received by parents.
- IV. Attend a supervised excursion, camp, etc, provided details are given and permission received from parents.

**Homestay / private accommodation arrangements at Scotch Oakburn College:**

The homestay arrangements approved by Scotch Oakburn College meet legislative requirements for child protection as well as Standard 5 of the 2018 National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students.

These include:

- I. Continuous dates for approved welfare arrangements
- II. Documented procedures for checking suitability of accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements before a student is placed in an approved arrangement, and at least every six months thereafter, covering
  - Guidelines for selecting, screening and monitoring each family and ensuring the family can provide age appropriate care and facilities for the duration of the student's enrolment at the College
  - Criteria about accommodation services to be provided, and contract for arrangements about providing accommodation services
  - Orientation program for families new to provision of homestay services
  - Compliant Homestay risk management strategy, reviewed annually, undertaken by College / operator of the homestay program

- Working with Vulnerable People cards required for adults living in the homestay / private arrangement, other than overseas student, or who otherwise have regular contact with the student.

*This policy should be checked and updated whenever there is a change in regulations about NC Standard 5, in Department of Immigration regulations, or when existing policies need to be adapted or strengthened.*

*Last updated April 2018*