SECTION 2

Pre-Arrival
Section 2: Pre-Arrival

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Introduction to Australia

www.australia.gov.au (September 2015)

Australia is a unique and diverse country in every way - in culture, population, climate, geography, and history.

Culture
Australian culture is as broad and varied as the country's landscape. Australia is multicultural and multiracial and this is reflected in the country's food, lifestyle and cultural practices and experience.

Australia has an important heritage from its indigenous people, which plays a defining role in the cultural landscape.

This diversity of influences creates a cultural environment in Australia that is lively, energised, innovative and outward looking.

Population
As of December 2014, Australia's population is roughly 23.6 million people. The most populous states are New South Wales and Victoria, with their respective capitals, Sydney and Melbourne, the largest cities in Australia.

Australia's population is concentrated along the coastal region of Australia from Adelaide to Cairns, with a small concentration around Perth, Western Australia. The centre of Australia is sparsely populated.

Climate
The majority of Australia experiences temperate weather for most of the year.

The northern states of Australia are typically warm all the time, with the southern states experiencing cool winters but rarely sub-zero temperatures.

Snow falls on the higher mountains during the winter months, enabling skiing in southern New South Wales and Victorian ski resorts, as well as the smaller resorts in Australia's island state, Tasmania.

Geography
Australia is an island continent and the world's sixth largest country (7,682,300 sq km).

Lying between the Indian and Pacific oceans, the country is approximately 4,000 km from east to west and 3,200 km from north to south, with a coastline 36,735 km long.

Canberra is Australia's capital city. With a population of approximately 380,000 people and situated in the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra is roughly half way between the two largest cities Melbourne and Sydney.

Australia has 19 listed World Heritage properties. Australia is also famous for its landmark buildings including the Sydney Harbour Bridge; its ancient geology, as well as for its high country.
History
Australia's first inhabitants, the Aboriginal people, are believed to have migrated from some unknown point in Asia to Australia between 50,000 and 60,000 years ago.

While Captain James Cook is credited with Australia's European discovery in 1770, a Portuguese possibly first sighted the country, while the Dutch are known to have explored the coastal regions in the 1640s.

The first European settlement of Australia was in January 1788, when the First Fleet sailed into Botany Bay under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. Originally established as a penal colony, by the 1830s the number of free settlers was increasing. Transportation of convicts to the eastern colonies was abolished in 1852 and to the western colonies in 1868.

Legal system
Australia follows a Westminster system of government and law inherited from the British who originally colonised the country.

There are two main political parties and a number of minor parties, which make up the Commonwealth Parliament. Each state and territory also has its own government.

Did you know Australia has the third highest number of international students in the world behind only the United Kingdom and the United States despite having a population of only 23 million? This isn’t surprising when you consider Australia has seven of the top 100 universities in the world!

Australia has five of the 30 best cities in the world for students based on student mix, affordability, quality of life, and employer activity – all important elements for students when choosing the best study destination.

Given this impressive education pedigree, it’s not surprising there are now more than 2.5 million former international students who have gone on to make a difference after studying in Australia. Some of these students are among the world’s finest minds. In fact, Australia has produced 15 Nobel prize laureates and every day over 1 billion people around the world rely on Australian discoveries and innovations - including penicillin, IVF, ultrasound, Wi-Fi, the Bionic Ear, cervical cancer vaccine and Black Box Flight Recorders - to make their lives, and the lives of others, better.

Australia is generally a very safe place to live and study. The 2011 OECD Better Life Index (opens in a new window) rated Australia 9.3 out of 10 for safety, one of the highest ratings awarded to any country.

But it is still important to look after yourself and be aware of the risks that exist - and ways to minimise them. This is particularly important for when you first arrive and are adjusting to your new way of life. Following your common sense and best practices will ensure you remain safe and healthy, whether you are handling emergencies, personal and home safety, or natural elements such as sun, water, and fire.
Introducing Sunnybank, Brisbane

Location
Sunnybank is a leafy residential suburb and shopping precinct 15 minutes south of the Brisbane central business district.

Population
Sunnybank has a population of approximately 8100 people with 44% born in Australia and 15% born in China.

Housing
The 3100 homes in Sunnybank include a mix of modern brick designs and the more traditional Queensland timber weatherboard homes.

Shopping Centres
Sunnybank comprises 3 major shopping centres including Sunnybank Plaza, Sunny Park and Market Square. These shopping centres comprise of supermarkets, banks, medical centres, pharmacies, hairdressers, restaurants and one with a cinema complex.

Parks
Sunnybank is home to many public open space areas including the beautiful Toohey Forest Conservation Park boasting many beautiful eucalypt and grass trees and home to colonies of owls, possums and gliders. With good signage and tracks, this is a great place to walk or ride a bike.

Hospitals
Sunnybank has both a public hospital including an Emergency Department and a private hospital:

Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital
South Brisbane

Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Public Hospital and Emergency Department
Cnr Kessells Road and Troughton Road
Coopers Plains
Phone 3275 6111

Sunnybank Private Hospital
(NO Emergency Department)
245 McCullough Street, Sunnybank
Phone 3344 9444

Sports Facilities
The Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre, previously hosted the opening ceremony of the 1982 Commonwealth Games, provides competition and training facilities in track and field athletics and beach volleyball.
Known as a sporting hub, Sunnybank also boasts two soccer grounds, rugby fields, netball courts, cricket pitches and tennis courts.

**Public Transport**
Sunnybank is a major corridor for both buses and trains as they transport commuters to and from the Central Business District. With multiple stops in Sunnybank and a regular service, residents can easily commute between home, school, sport and work.

**Police**
For police assistance in non-life threatening situations, visit the Police Beat office situated in Sunnybank Plaza Shopping Centre.

**Living Costs**
Information on living costs in Australia can be obtained from www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/global/live-in-australia/living-costs
Introducing St Thomas More College

Catholic Co-educational Secondary College
Opened in 1974, St Thomas More College is a Brisbane Catholic Education school founded on Christ and aimed at providing quality teaching and learning outcomes for our co-educational secondary students from Years 7 to 12.

The Principal of St Thomas More College is appointed by and reports to the Executive Director, Brisbane Catholic Education.

Student Population
In 2015, St Thomas More College has a population of approximately 910 students across Years 7 to 12.

Location
St Thomas More College is conveniently located in the centre of Sunnybank on the corner of Turton Street and Troughton Road, Sunnybank Qld 4109.

Contact Numbers
Office 3323 4600
Absentee Line 3323 4655
Fax 3344 3598
After Hours 0438 334 542 (Sharne Davies)

Email
General admin@stmc.qld.edu.au
Sharne Davies sdavies@stmc.qld.edu.au
Peter Elmore pelmore@stmc.qld.edu.au

School Hours
Monday to Friday
Office: 8:00am to 4:00pm
Supervision from 8:00am
School Hours: 8:31am to 2:54pm
Lesson Blocks
Pastoral Care 8:31am to 8:46am
Lesson - Period 1 8:48am to 10:03am
Lesson - Period 2 10:05am to 11:20am
Lunch 11:20am to 12:00am
Lesson – Period 3 12:02am to 1:17pm
Lunch 1:17pm to 1:37pm
Lesson – Period 4 1:39am to 2:54pm

Transportation
Easily accessible from most suburbs by either:
• Walking
• Cycling
• St Thomas More College owned and operated buses
• Train – Banoon Station opposite College
• Brisbane City Council buses
• Private bus charter companies

College Mission Statement
Our College vision is..., the formation of sacramental people in a Catholic school.
Our College mission, inspired by Jesus, is... to seek, grow and serve by
• developing faith so that we might better enter into the goodness of creation and the mysteries of life, death and resurrection;
• actively learning through high quality educational experiences; and
• participating in community as members of the College family and as citizens of Queensland, Australia and the world.
This is reflected in our motto... God’s Servant First..... which reminds all that every thought, word and deed should be informed by compassion, kindness, justice and peace, and the love of God and one another.

The Faith Life of the College
At St Thomas More College we are concerned with the development of the whole person. Special emphasis is placed upon spiritual and religious development, recognising and rejoicing in the reality that human existence finds its meaning and ultimate purpose from relationship with God, the College community and the wider community. The Faith component is divided into two distinct parts – a Sense of Sacred/The Religious Life of the College and the classroom teaching of Religious Education.

The Religious Life of the College is based on an overarching belief in God and in the Archdiocesan documentation – Guidelines to the Religious Life of the School which was launched in 2008. This document is made up of four parts:
• Religious Identity and Culture
• Prayer and Worship
• Evangelisation and Faith Formation
• Social Action.
The classroom teaching of Religious Education aims to develop the religious literacy of students to enable them to participate critically and effectively in the life of their faith communities and the wider community.
Arranging Visas:

Most international students wanting to study in Australia require a student visa. Some other visa holders are also eligible to study as international students in Australia. Many students apply for a visa themselves on-line or via the Australian Diplomatic Mission in their country. The visa application process can be complicated and for students from some countries it may better to submit an application with the assistance of an accredited agent due their familiarity and experience in the field. You should check with the education provider in Australia for their accredited agents in your country.

In order to apply for a visa you will need a valid passport, an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) and any other documentation required by the Australian diplomatic post with which you lodge your application. For example, if you are under 18 you must have a completed CAAW form to ensure your accommodation and welfare is approved by your education provider.

You must ensure to allow enough time for processing between lodging your application and the start of your academic program, as it can be a lengthy process depending on your country of origin.

Streamline Student Visa Processing (SVP)

Under the streamlined student visa processing arrangements, eligible student visa applicants from participating education providers are no assigned an assessment level. If you are eligible for streamlined visa processing you will generally have reduced evidentiary requirements, similar to those that apply under Assessment Level 1, regardless of your country of origin. For more information visit [http://www.immi.gov.au/Study/Pages/Streamlined-student-visa-processing.aspx](http://www.immi.gov.au/Study/Pages/Streamlined-student-visa-processing.aspx)

Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)

The Australian Government’s Department of Immigration and Border Protection provides comprehensive information about student visa requirements and the application process, as well as application document checklists to assist you with your application. Visit [www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/index.htm) for the latest information.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Migration Agents

A migration agent can assist you in submitting your visa application and communicate with DIBP on your behalf, but please note that you do not need to use a migration agent to lodge any kind of visa application.

Education Agents

Education agents promote various Australian education programs and institutions internationally and are a good way for students to apply to study in Australia. Agents are experienced in making international student applications and applying for visas. Most speak both English and the local language so this makes the application process a lot simpler and generally hassle free for students and parents. Most do not charge for their service as they collect a commission from the institution you choose to attend. However, some agents do charge small amounts or offer additional services for which they charge. You can check with your Australian education provider for contact details of agents they recommend.

Please Note: Although able to assist in completing education and visa applications, Education Agents are NOT licensed to provide migration advice.

Visa Conditions:

If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions could result in the cancellation of your visa. These conditions include (but are not limited to):

- Complete the course within the duration specific in the CoE
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 calendar months, unless issued a letter of release from the provider to attend another institution
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.

To understand your student visa conditions visit http://www.immi.gov.au/Study/Pages/Study.aspx and watch the Checking Visa details video.
Arranging Travel:

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to Australia. Please try to arrive at least 1-2 weeks before the start of International Student Orientation to allow enough time for settling-in, adjusting to the climate and overcoming jet-lag.

You should fly into Brisbane International Airport A. Visit www.bne.com.au. Sunnybank B is located 30 kms from Brisbane International Airport.

Student collection from the airport is co-ordinated by the Agent.
Documents

You should prepare a folder of **official documents** to bring with you to Australia, including:

- Valid passport with your electronic Student Visa
- Offer of a place / admission letter from St Thomas More College
- Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) issued by St Thomas More College
- Receipts of payments (e.g. tuition fees, OSHC, bank statements etc.)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal identification documents, e.g. birth certificate, ID card, driver’s licence
- Medical records and/or prescriptions
- CAAW if you are under 18 years of age.

**Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage.** In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

What to Bring

Students are often surprised by how strict Australian Customs Services and quarantine can be. If you're in doubt about whether your goods are prohibited or not, **declare it anyway** on the Incoming Passenger Card which you will receive on the plane. Students have received on the spot fines for not declaring items. Visit the Department of Agriculture Travelling to Australia web page [www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling):

- Read “What can't I take into Australia?”
- And also let your family and friends know “What can't be mailed to Australia?”

Baggage allowances flying into Australia will vary according to your carrier, flight class and country of origin. Please check with your carrier prior to departure. Economy passengers are generally permitted 1 x checked luggage (35kg) and 1 x carry-on (7kg) for international flights, but only 20kg of checked luggage on domestic flights within Australia. This will significantly limit the amount of things you can bring, especially if you will fly within Australia to get to your final destination. Therefore, it is essential to think the packing process through very carefully. You will be able to purchase most things upon arrival in Australia but the price may be higher than in your own country.

Seasonal Considerations

Summer in Australia is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August, and spring from September to November. For most of the country the hottest months are January and February.

If you arrive in June or July, the coldest months of the year, you may need to bring or buy winter clothing and blankets. You may also need to purchase a heating appliance once you arrive.
Clothing

On most campuses, students usually dress informally. Jeans or slacks with t-shirts or blouses, sneakers or “running shoes” are almost standard dress. Shorts are often worn during the summer months and sandals are the most common footwear. It is acceptable for both men and women to wear shorts and sleeveless t-shirts. This is common during the hotter months.

A sports coat or suit and tie for men and appropriate dress for women is necessary for some functions such as formal dinners, a graduation ceremony, student dances or balls. For festive occasions, you may want to bring traditional dress and accessories.

Most primary and secondary school students will be required to wear a school uniform to classes and other school activities. You should check with your education provider what is included in the uniform package.

Other Items You Might Need to Include (most can also be purchased in Australia)

- alarm clock
- bath towels, bed sheets, pillow cases
- dictionary (bilingual)
- small sewing kit
- music CDs or iPod
- sporting equipment
- toiletries
- umbrella
- scientific or graphics calculator
- camera
- micro recorder for lectures
- spare spectacles or contact lenses
- your optical prescription
- photos of friends and family
- swimming costume
- small gifts from home

The standard voltage for electrical items in Australia is 240V. Electric plugs have three flat pins one of which is an earth pin. You may need to buy an adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive.

Note: In the picture, the red dot indicates that the switch is on and power is flowing through that socket.

Bringing Your Computer

Bringing a PC or laptop into Australia may be a little more complicated.

Items owned and used for more than 12 months prior to arrival are allowed in tax-free. Proof of the date of purchase and purchase price may be required. Computers which are less than 12 months old and over AUD$400 may attract Goods and Services tax (GST) at a rate of 10%. Consideration is given as to whether or not you intend to export the computer at the conclusion of your studies.

To satisfy the Customs Officer that you will be taking the computer out of Australia you should bring along a statutory declaration (a written declaration witnessed by the certifying authority in your country) stating that the computer is for use during your
studies in Australia, and that you intend to take it back with you when you complete your studies. You may be required to give an undertaking under Section 162 to this effect and provide a cash security to Australia Customs upon arrival.

Mobile Phones & Laptops

If you are considering bringing a mobile phone, laptop, or any communication devices we suggest that you visit the Australian Communications and Media Authority www.acma.gov.au before making any purchases. Some students have brought in their own laptops with internal modems only to discover that they were unable to use their modem in Australia. Any external or built-in modems must be Austel Approved in order to function in Australia.

On Your Flight

Wear comfortable, layered clothing so that you are able to make adjustments according to the local weather. Remember – if you are flying from a northern hemisphere winter into the Australian summer it will be very HOT so wear light weight clothing underneath, and have a pair of sandals or lighter shoes in your hand luggage if you need cooler footwear. Alternatively extra clothing may be required on-hand if flying into the Australian winter season.

Before landing in Australia passengers are given an Incoming Passenger Card to fill in. This is a legal document. You must tick ✓ YES if you are carrying any food, plant material including wooden souvenirs, or animal products. This includes fruit given to you during your flight. If you have items you don’t wish to declare, you can dispose of them in quarantine bins in the airport terminal. Don’t be afraid to ask airline staff if you have any questions.

If you are carrying more than AU$10,000 in cash, you must also declare this on your Incoming Passenger Card. It is strongly recommended however, that you do not carry large sums of cash but arrange for an electronic transfer of funds into your Australian bank account once it has been opened.
Entry into Australia

Australian Immigration
When you first arrive in Australia you will be required to make your way through Australian Immigration (follow the signs for Arriving Passengers as you leave the plane). An Immigration Officer will ask to see your completed Incoming Passenger Card (given to you on the plane) along with your passport and student visa evidence. The Immigration Officer will check your documents and may ask you a few questions about your plans for your stay in Australia.

Baggage Claim
Once you have passed through the immigration checks you will move to baggage claim (follow the signs) and collect your luggage. Check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or damaged go to the Baggage Counter and advise them of your problem. Staff at the Baggage Counter will help you to find your belongings or lodge a claim for damage.

Detector Dogs
You may see a Quarantine Detector Dog at the baggage carousel or while waiting in line to pass through immigration, screening luggage for food, plant material or animal products. If you see a detector dog working close to you, please place your bags on the floor for inspection. These dogs are not dangerous to humans and are trained to detect odours. Sometimes a dog will sit next to your bag if it sniffs a target odour. Sometimes dogs will detect odours left from food you have had in the bag previously. A quarantine officer may ask about the contents of your bag and check you are not carrying items that present a quarantine risk to Australia.

Australian Customs and Quarantine
Once you have your luggage you will go through Customs. Be careful about what you bring into Australia. Some items you might bring from overseas can carry pests and diseases that Australia doesn’t have. You must declare ALL food, meat, fruit, plants, seeds, wooden souvenirs, animal or plant materials or their derivatives.

Australia has strict quarantine laws and tough on-the-spot fines. Every piece of luggage is now screened or x-rayed by quarantine officers, detector dog teams and x-ray machines. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you will get caught. In addition to on-the-spot fines, you could be prosecuted and fined more than AU$66,000 and risk 10 years in prison. All international mail is also screened.

Some products may require treatment to make them safe. Items that are restricted because of the risk of pests and disease will be seized and destroyed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

For more detailed information about bringing in food, animals, plants, animal or plant materials or their derivatives visit www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling.
**Arrivals Hall**

You will be able to leave the restricted area and enter the Arrivals Hall once you have cleared Customs. Here you will find a number of retail and food outlets along with public telephones, an information booth and money exchange facilities. If you arrive on a weekend, you may like to exchange money here as most banks are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

The student will be met by the Agent. The Agent may be contacted on

Agent Telephone (business hours): 3852 4002  
Mobile (Yaoli Wang): 0413 670 857  
Mobile (Sangeeta Mahajan): 0421 399 797  
St Thomas More College (business hours) 3323 4600  
Mobile (Sharne Davies): 0438 334 542
Getting From the Airport:

Most international flights land at Brisbane International Airport, 11 The Circuit, Brisbane.

Airport Reception Service
The student will be met by the Agent. The Agent may be contacted on

Agent Telephone (business hours): 3852 4002
Mobile (Yaoli Wang): 0413 670 857
Mobile (Sangeeta Mahajan): 0421 399 797
St Thomas More College (business hours) 3323 4600
Mobile (Sharne Davies): 0438 334 542

Keeping in Contact:

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and your education provider in Australia, with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. (Do not change these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have arrived safely. It is important to ALWAYS let someone know where you are and how to contact you by phone or by post.

Accessing Money:

You should read this section carefully, and discuss the issues raised in this section with the bank or financial institution in your home country before you leave. All banks operate differently and you should be aware of all fees, charges, ease of access to your funds, and safety of the way in which you will access those funds.

How Much to Bring

You will need to make sure you have enough funds to support you when you first arrive. It is recommended that you have approximately AU$2000 to AU$3000 available for the first two to three weeks to pay for temporary accommodation and transport. You should bring most of this money as either Traveller’s Cheques or on an international credit card. Traveller’s cheques can be cashed at any bank or currency exchange in Australia.

Please note that it is not safe to bring large sums of money with you! Lost credit cards or traveller’s cheques can be replaced, but very few travel insurance companies
will replace lost or stolen cash. Do not ask someone you have just met to handle your cash for you or to take your cash to make payments for you. Not even someone who may indicate they are studying at the same education institution.

**Currency Exchange**

Only Australian currency can be used in Australia. If you have not brought some with you, you will need to change your money into Australian currency as soon as possible after arrival. You can do this at the airport. Once you have arrived in Brisbane, you can also change money at any bank or at currency exchanges at

UAE Exchange Foreign Currency and Money  
Sunnybank Plaza  
Cnr Mains Road and McCullough Street  
Sunnybank  
Phone: 3345 8699

Many banks and Australia Post outlets also provide currency exchange services.

**Electronic Transfer**

You can transfer money into Australia by electronic telegraph or telegraphic transfer at any time. This is a fast option and will take approximately **48 hours**, but the bank will charge a fee on every transaction.

**ATMs**

Automatic Teller Machines are located everywhere (including at the airport) and you can immediately withdraw cash from your overseas bank account at ATMs displaying the **Cirrus Logo** (if your ATM card has international access). Check this with your financial institution before leaving home.

**Credit Cards**

All major international credit cards are accepted in Australia but you must remember that **repayments** to many of these cards can only be made in the country where they were issued. Do not rely on being able to get a credit card once you arrive in Australia because this is very difficult due to credit and identification laws.
Arranging Accommodation:

St Thomas More College approves the following accommodation and care options for overseas students:

1. **The student will live with a parent or relative as permitted by Department of Immigration.**
   In this case the School does not provide a welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS. The student’s family provides proof of relationship to Department of Immigration for the purposes of visa application.

2. **The student will live in school approved accommodation and the School will generate the welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS to accompany the student’s Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).** In this case:
   a. Any accommodation, welfare and other support arrangements for the student must be approved by the School, including arrangements provided by third parties.
   b. Any changes to approved arrangements must also be approved by the School. **This includes any requests by students under 18 years of age to attend “Schoolies Week” on completion of Year 12.**
   c. If a student for whom the School has issued a CAAW refuses to maintain approved arrangements, the School 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 office addresses at: [http://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Locations/Pages/Australia.aspx](http://www.immi.gov.au/Help/Locations/Pages/Australia.aspx).)

School approved accommodation options for full fee paying 571 visa subclass students under 18 years of age include:
- *Homestay Program operated by ISCA.

3. For School vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available to full fee paying 571 visa subclass students under 18 years of age for whom the School issued a CAAW:

   - Student returns home to parents
   - Student continues to live in / is placed in Homestay arranged and approved by the school
   - Student may spend vacation with friend’s family or relatives if all requirements are met in order to attain school approval.
   - Student may attend a supervised excursion, camp etc. if all requirements are met in order to attain school approval.

4. **Accommodation options for full fee paying 571 visa subclass students 18 years and older include:** [Schools should make it clear if it is a condition of enrolment that students over 18 years also maintain school approved accommodation]
arrangements. List accommodation options for term time and vacation periods for students 18 years or older here, e.g.:

i. Homestay Program
ii. School Boarding House
iii. Private accommodation arrangements

5. For School vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available to full fee paying 571 visa subclass students 18 years or older:

i. Student returns home to parents
ii. Student continues to live in / is placed in Homestay, details of which are recoded by the School
iii. Student may attend a supervised excursion, camp, etc., provided details are given

Additional Information:

HOMESTAY / PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS:

The Homestay operated by St Thomas More College / approved by St Thomas More College meets Queensland legislative requirements for child protection as well as Standard 5 of the National Code. These include

- Continuous dates for approved welfare arrangements
- Documented procedures for checking suitability of accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements
  - Guidelines for selecting family and ensuring the family can provide a stable environment for the duration of the student’s enrolment at the school
  - 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 operator of the homestay program
- Bluecard for adults living in the homestay / private arrangement other than overseas students.

STUDENT GUARDIAN VISAS

St Thomas More 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 School of any change to address or contact details
iii. immediately advise the School 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 School is able to approve alternative accommodation and care arrangements for the student for the period of student guardian visa holder’s absence, the School will provide documentation
approving temporary care arrangements for the student for the Department of Immigration.

If there is not a valid reason for travelling overseas, or if the School is not able to approve alternative accommodation and care arrangements for the student for the period of 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 School will advise if compulsory attendance requirements will or will not be affected by the student’s absence.