Care for younger students under 18 years

Toowoomba Anglican School is a CRICOS-registered provider which enrols younger students under 18 years of age. As part of is registration obligations Toowoomba Anglican School 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.

Toowoomba Anglican School 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

Toowoomba Anglican School approves the following accommodation and care options for overseas students:

1) The student will live with a parent or relative approved by the Department of Immigration. In this case:
    i. The School does **not** provide a welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS. The student's family completes Form 157N and provides proof of relationship to Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) at the time of visa application for approval of these arrangements. The Department of Home Affairs (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:
        a) not leaving Australia without the nominating student unless there are compassionate and compelling circumstances and the School has first approved alternative welfare and accommodation arrangements for the student for the adult's period of absence, and

b) advising the Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) of any change of address, passport or other changes of circumstances.

Toowoomba Anglican School requires holders of Student Guardian Visas (Subclass 590) 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 to the student's guardian and for the Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) via PRISMS.

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.

2) The student will live in school approved accommodation and welfare arrangements and Toowoomba Anglican School will generate the welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS to accompany the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).

Accommodation options that may be approved by Toowoomba Anglican School for full fee paying 500 visa subclass students under 18 years of age include:

I. School Boarding House

Toowoomba Anglican School 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 process in relation to Toowoomba Anglican School'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 or nominated relative approved by the Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) assumes care of the student
vi. Toowoomba Anglican School has notified the Department of Home Affairs (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 Toowoomba Anglican School, 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 have a blue card as appropriate: Blue Card Services website

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.

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

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 Home Affairs (Immigration) and advise the student to contact the Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) to ensure visa implications are understood: DHA enquiries.

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

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

3) For School vacation periods, students under 18 years of age for whom Toowoomba Anglican School has issued a CAAW will:
   i. return home to parents, or
   ii. apply for approval to spend the vacation with relatives or a friend's family.*

4) Accommodation options for students 18 years and older include:
   i. School Boarding House

5) For School vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available to students 18 years or older:
   i. Student returns home to parents
   - Student may spend vacation with a friend's family or relatives, provided details are given.

6) Homestay / private accommodation arrangements at Toowoomba Anglican School: The Homestay approved by Toowoomba Anglican School meet Queensland 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 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 school / operator of the homestay program

II. Blue cards as required for adults living in the homestay / private arrangement, other than overseas students, or who otherwise have regular contact with the student.*

***Note:** As of 31 August 2020, "No card, No start" blue card requirements apply for providers of child accommodation services, unless an exemption applies.