



Policy Date:	March 2020
Authorised by:	Principal
Contacts:	Director, Communication and Admissions Dean of Student Wellbeing
Locations:	SS2/MYS/SW

ACCOMMODATION AND WELFARE POLICY – INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY

Care for younger students under 18 years

Somerville House is a CRICOS-registered provider which enrolls younger students under 18 years of age.

As part of its registration obligations, Somerville House 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

Somerville House 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

Somerville House 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 Home Affairs.

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 the Department of Home Affairs at the time of visa application for approval of these arrangements. The Department of Home Affairs 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 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
 - advising the Department of Home Affairs of any change of address, passport or other changes of circumstances

Somerville House requires holders of Student Guardian Visas to:

- i. maintain Overseas Visitor Health Cover for themselves and any dependent children living with them in Australia immediately advise the School of any change to address or contact details
- ii. 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 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 Somerville House will generate the welfare letter (CAAW) via PRISMS to accompany the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). Accommodation options that may be approved by Somerville House for full fee paying 500 (formerly 571) visa subclass students under 18 years of age include:
 - i. School Boarding House
 - ii. Private accommodation and care arrangements requested by the parent but approved by the School which meet all requirements under relevant state and commonwealth legislation.

Somerville House 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 Somerville House'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. Somerville House has notified the Department of Home Affairs 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 Somerville House, 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 (<https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/>).

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

If a student cannot be located and the School has concerns for 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 and advise the student to contact the Department of Home Affairs to ensure visa implications are understood <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us>. The nearest office is 299 Adelaide Street, Brisbane City Qld 4000. Office Hours are: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm. Phone: 131 881.

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 emergency contact agrees to travel to a designated location within 3 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 Somerville House 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, or
 - iii. apply to attend a supervised excursion, camp, etc., if all requirements are met in order to attain Somerville House approval.

4. Accommodation options for students 18 years and older include:
 - i. School Boarding House
 - ii. Private accommodation and care arrangements requested by the parent but approved by the School which meet all requirements under relevant State and Commonwealth legislation.

5. For school vacation periods, the following accommodation options are available to students 18 years or older:
 - i. Student returns home to parents
 - ii. Student may spend vacation with friend's family or relatives, provided details are given
 - iv. Student may attend a supervised excursion, camp, etc..., provided details are given
 - v. Student may travel unaccompanied during vacation periods, provided details are given.

Version Control Table			
Version Control	Date Effective	Approved By	Amendment
2020-1	March 2020	The Principal	Policy in created in accordance with CRICOS update 18 October 2019.