

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Australians Asked to Help International Students Settle

Brisbane, Australia – 27 September 2019:

A new initiative called 'Start with Us' has been launched this week to help resolve one of the biggest issues facing international students commencing their study program in Australia.

Over the last 10 years governments in Australia and peak industry organisations have invested heavily in trying to solve this problem with limited success. The most notable reports exposing issues for international students included [*The Senate Inquiry into the Welfare of International Students \(2009\)*](#) and the [*Inquiry into International Student Accommodation in New South Wales \(2011\)*](#).

Despite the many inquiries and clear recommendations - international students continue to have trouble settling into their new way of life in Australia.

Difficulties settling into a new country have often led to poor health and unsatisfactory results for the international student. This damages Australia's reputation globally affecting our third largest export industry worth in excess of \$34 billion to Australia's economy.

CEO of the Australian Homestay Network, Julie Manché launched this week a 'Start with Us' campaign designed to solve the 'settling in' issue that many international students were having.

Australian families are being invited to apply to host an international student for their first four weeks in the country. Many Australian households have already joined in to help international students ease into their new life by assisting with such things as:

- Orientation
- Language
- Banking
- Transport
- Culture and Processes
- Helping with Individual Problems as they arise

Mrs Manché is welcoming key Education Agents and Education Providers involved in international education in Australia to join the 'Start with Us' campaign so that all adult international students can start their experience successfully in Australia.

"We want to partner with quality Education Providers and Agents to join us and promote the 'Start with Us' campaign to encourage even more international students coming to Australia" she said.

International students will be encouraged to start their life in Australia by initially living with a properly trained Australian family for their first four weeks in the country. The Australian Homestay Network already has hosts in every major location in Australia signed up to assist with the 'Start with Us' campaign.

"The 'Start with Us' campaign is designed to give international students the perfect start to their study adventure allowing them to make better informed, long term decisions with the support and knowledge of an experienced local host". Mrs Manché said.

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ABOUT AHN

[Australian Homestay Network](http://homestaynetwork.org) (AHN) is Australia's largest and most recognised international student homestay provider. We match AHN-certified hosts with visiting international students to provide the highest quality homestay experience while they study in Australia. Since 2008, AHN has placed over 52,000 students from 179 countries into homestay accommodation. AHN is the industry leader, dedicated to delivering global standards, technology and best practices across its network of services.