



Australian Homestay  
Network

## Australians Come to the Rescue of International Students

**BRISBANE, Australia – 25 August 2020:** Hundreds of struggling international students on the verge of homelessness are finding sound support in welcoming Aussie homes.

The Australian Homestay Network (AHN) has been coordinating placements for international students seeking emergency accommodation as part of the [NSW Government's \\$20 million international student support package](#).

The majority of students are in homestays throughout Sydney and Wollongong, with almost 300 local families registered to host students as part of AHN's [International Student Support Network \(ISSN\)](#) program.

AHN has seen a surge in ISSN applications since July 1, with a 95% increase overall and the number of applicants referred by Study NSW almost doubling. The Study NSW partnership accounts for more than 80% of ISSN placements made to date.

AHN Founder, David Bycroft, said they are predicting demand for assistance will continue to rise and more hosts will be needed in key locations.

With around [21% of international students in Australia](#) fearing they could become homeless, Mr Bycroft said he would like to see the success of the program in NSW replicated across Australia.

"There were more than 555,000 student visa holders in Australia at the end of the June. They're far from home and a lot of them are doing it tough.

"International students are struggling to focus on their studies while dealing with unemployment, loneliness and the uncertainty of how they'll feed themselves or if they'll be able to pay for their rent," Mr Bycroft said.

"It's fantastic to have so many people opening their doors to show these students that as Australians, we care about them and we are here to support them," Mr Bycroft said.

Local families with a spare room are encouraged to register their interest in hosting via the [ISSN webpage](#). Students seeking accommodation should engage with their local [Study Hub](#) (Study NSW, Study Gold Coast, Study Melbourne, etc.) or apply for the ISSN program upon referral from or their education provider. Eligibility criteria may apply.

**NOTE:** Read how the ISSN is helping international students [here](#).

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### AHN FOUNDER

**David Bycroft**

[dbycroft@homestaynetwork.org](mailto:dbycroft@homestaynetwork.org)

0402 925 632

### ABOUT AHN

[AHN](#) is Australia's leading standards-based homestay provider for international students and has placed more than 60,000 students from 180 countries in homestays across Australia. The company's dedicated hosts welcome international guests to Australia and into their homes, providing a local support network for students as they develop lifelong connections that span the globe. AHN hosts have an intrinsic community spirit, a quality which came to the fore as AHN rose to the challenge of housing more than 600 asylum seekers released from detention in Australian homes in 2012/13.

In 2020 AHN launched the [International Student Support Network \(ISSN\)](#), an initiative delivering low cost short-term lodging to eligible international students in Australia identified as needing support and assistance with accommodation due to the COVID-19 economic crisis.