

Submission

No 35

## **INQUIRY INTO INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Lane Cove Council

**Name:** Ms Carol Sinclair

**Date Received:** 7/10/2011

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*Partially Confidential*

## **Comments from first person**

A letter from [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your letter received today, about the inquiry into international student accommodation conducted by Social Policy Committee of Legislative Assembly.

I know three people who have had international students stay in their homes but have only been able to talk to one person, as one of the other families is in New York and the other is in the outback of Queensland until Christmas helping country folk.

What I can tell you, is that all three families had to provide references and had their accommodation checked for suitability.

Another single lady, living in a unit would have students come for 2 to 4 weeks or sometimes more. Students were here to learn English. She had a choice from whence they came and she had two students at a time. They were not always from the same country but they were from all round the world. They would leave at 9am and return at 5pm on week days. She would provide breakfast and dinner and do their washing. The eldest person she had was a 55 year old lady from Japan.

Most of those from Japan were from a school and were aged between 14 and 16 years old. The hostess was able to share language with the student and stories from the area of their country where they lived. The hostess would get a little of the history of the family before they arrived to stay. At weekends she would take them out to see Sydney etc.

This lady said she would still be sharing her home if she had not had to move into a smaller unit.

One family hosted a Macquarie University student for 1 year while studying ballet. She lived in a flat downstairs but shared the house with the husband and wife.

Another family hosted many students (2 at a time) over a number of years. They had their own bedroom with desk for study. Students would join their family (dad, mum, and 4 children) in activities and family celebrations, at meal times and outings.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express the thoughts of those who have really enjoyed being hosts to those from around the world.

**Comments from a second person are as follows**

I would suggest adding another two terms of reference, along the lines of:

"The appropriateness for students of the existing avenues of complaint and redress about accommodation and tenancy issues, and whether new mechanisms are required for students' protection"

"Consideration of establishing a requirement that educational organisations be required to source appropriate accommodation options for international students"