

## Australian Homestay Network Supporting International Students and Industry

**BRISBANE, Australia – 1 April 2020**: The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Australia's international education industry hard but the <u>Australian Homestay Network</u> (AHN) wants students and service providers to know that the community support is strong.

Inspired by Study in Australia's <u>#InThisTogether</u> campaign, the company has been connecting with universities and accommodation providers to let international students know there are many local Australian families here to support them.

"Some of our homestay hosts have been with us for nearly a decade. They know how important it is for a student to feel safe, welcome and comfortable and that's what's really needed at a time like this," said AHN Founder, David Bycroft.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 outbreak is also uniting Australian companies as they fight to survive.

AHN is offering purpose-built accommodation operators and schools with on-campus residences the option to temporarily relocate guests to homestay as a potential solution to any physical or mental health concerns students or their parents may have.

"We are working with accommodation providers to make sure students are safely accommodated until things are back to normal and they're ready to return to their original lodgings.

"Being in a family environment can provide peace of mind and structure for an international student and we want to help facilitate that," Mr Bycroft said.

"The safety and wellbeing of students is paramount, that hasn't changed," Mr Bycroft said.

"The whole industry has been impacted and we all need to work together to help international students and our fellow Australian businesses get through this."

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AHN FOUNDER David Bycroft dbycroft@homestaynetwork.org 0402 925 632

## **ABOUT AHN**

Australian Homestay Network (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 59,000 students from 180 countries in homestay accommodation. AHN services every capital city in the country along with other key student destinations. Our offering includes flexible homestay packages for both under 18s and over 18s, homestays for study tours and full study tour programs.

AHN is the industry leader, dedicated to delivering global standards, technology and best practices across its network of services.