

## Australian Company Recognised in Global Awards MyStay International nominated as PIEoneer Awards finalist

**BRISBANE**, **Australia – 17 June 2020**: Leading student accommodation and technology services provider MyStay International (MSI) is in the running to be named the *Accommodation provider of the year* at the <u>2020 PIEoneer Awards</u>.

Hundreds of entries were received across 18 categories for the awards which acknowledge outstanding innovation and achievement in international education.

MSI is the only Australian company shortlisted for *Accommodation provider of the year* and will compete against six other nominees from the UK and USA for the honour.

Founded in Brisbane, MSI has built its reputation on improving the international student experience for students across the globe.

MSI Founder and Director, David Bycroft, said being nominated as a PIEoneer Award finalist for the third time was "a phenomenal achievement" given the quality of the competition around the world.

"The PIE is a global authority in international education. For them to recognise MyStay International as one of the world's best accommodation providers is a real privilege and a great endorsement of our ongoing mission to support international students," Mr Bycroft said.

"Delivering quality student experiences with a focus on safety, wellbeing and cultural immersion has enabled us to positively impact the lives of more than 63,000 students from 183 countries."

One of MSI's major initiatives for 2020 was the establishment of the International Student Support Network, a program offering discounted short-term homestay accommodation to vulnerable international students in Australia in need of support and assistance due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The PIE highlighted that the calibre and volume of entries for this year's awards exceeded those received in 2019, which was a pleasant surprise given the turbulent events seen at the start of 2020.

"The nominations this year have been exceptional in showcasing so much excellent work that is being carried out across the international education industry, and it was very competitive," The PIE's Events Manager Rachel Donnellan said.

The Awards shortlist is made up of nominees from 26 countries. Winners will be selected by an independent judging panel of 38 international education specialists from across the globe in a virtual ceremony in September.

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## **ABOUT MSI**

MyStay International (MSI) is Australia's largest and leading standards-based international student homestay provider. In 2015, MSI was established to incorporate the consolidation of the Australian Homestay Network (founded 2007) and the American Homestay Network (founded 2012). Our core purpose is to facilitate lifetime relationships and be the global leader in properly-managed hosted accommodation for international students, based on the principles of accountability, integrity, transparency, personalised services, safety, and 24/7 professional support. The Australian Homestay Network has received acknowledgement and commendation for 'appropriate' standards from industry bodies and in two Australian Government inquiries, while the American Homestay Network has received accreditation from the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and is a sponsor of the American International Recruitment Council (AIRC).

In 2020, MSI launched the <u>International Student Support Network (ISSN)</u> to deliver low-cost temporary homestay to international students in Australia impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ISSN is facilitated by the Australian Homestay Network.