

St Margaret's



Information to provide to prospective home stay providers regarding blue card

Thank you for expressing interest in volunteering as a home stay provider for **St Margaret's interstate exchange program**. Volunteers play an important role assisting across many areas within the school and your assistance in this regard is very much appreciated.

All volunteers at St Margaret's must be registered with the school. If you haven't already done so, please complete the online Volunteer Register Form on our website:

<https://www.stmargarets.qld.edu.au/discover-st-margarets/student-protection/volunteering-at-st-margaret-s-> (go to 'click here to access the Volunteer Register')

Please note that from 31 August 2020, changes have been introduced to the blue card system in Queensland. **A person who provides accommodation for a child in their home as part of a home stay arrangement which is organised through a school or organisation for a period of more than 7 days in a calendar year must have a blue card or exemption card.** Note: Each adult residing in the home in which the home stay is conducted is required to hold a blue card *before* the homestay commences. *This includes any adult children of homestay providers.*

Further information about blue card requirements for home stay providers is outlined in a factsheet available on the Blue Card Services website at:

<https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/blue-card-system-changes/resource/e286723c-031a-4e97-9ecc-06746f204623>

If you don't already have a valid blue card:

To apply for a volunteer blue card online, go to <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card/applications/apply> and click on the green 'register now' button. Registration is a one time process. You will need to validate your identity using a Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads product (e.g. driver's licence, adult proof of age card, photo identification card, industry authority, marine licence or 18+ card). You will then be provided with an online account number.

As a volunteer, you will need to provide St Margaret's with your online account number and date of birth so that a link can be established to the school. Please email these details to niethe@stmargarets.qld.edu.au. This will ensure that the application fee is waived. By providing this information, you are consenting to St Margaret's creating a link with your blue card, which will enable the school to be informed by Blue Card Services of any changes to your blue card status.

Once you have been advised that the link has been established, you can commence your online application.

Please ensure you tick 'volunteer' application.

Once your online application is completed, Blue Card Services will process your application. Most online applications for people with no police information should be processed within five business days.

Blue Card Services will then notify you and St Margaret's of the outcome. You may only commence providing home stay accommodation once you have received notification from Blue Card Services that your application has been approved and your blue card has been issued.

If you already have a valid blue card:

Your blue card will need to be linked to St Margaret's Anglican Girls School. For this to occur, please email your blue card details (blue card number, expiry date and exact name as it appears on the card) and your date of birth to nniethe@stmargarets.qld.edu.au. By providing this information, you are consenting to St Margaret's creating a link with your blue card, which will enable the school to be informed by Blue Card Services of any changes to your blue card status.

Please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Niethé on 3862 0731 or nniethe@stmargarets.qld.edu.au if you have any queries in relation to this.