1. Context

A priority of Torrens University Australia is the personal safety and social wellbeing of all students. The University has particular obligations relating to international students who are under 18 years of age at the time of admission. Under 18 international students are required to have adequate welfare arrangements in place at the time their visa is granted. This policy describes the University’s accommodation and general welfare arrangements for this group of students.

2. Scope

This policy applies to international students with a student visa who are under 18 years of age at the time of admission. Students are required maintain the accommodation and welfare arrangements described in this policy until they turn 18 years of age.

4. Principles

The University is guided by the following principles in providing a safe living and learning environment for under 18 international students. Torrens University Australia will ensure:

- that accommodation and welfare arrangements are approved and monitored in compliance with the provisions of the National Code Standard 5 and Visa condition 8532; and
- that it complies with reporting requirements to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) relating to under 18 international students.

5. DIBP requirements

All under 18 students applying for a student visa must have their proposed accommodation and welfare arrangements approved by DIBP.

Under the Migration Regulations 1994 (Public Interest Criterion 4012A) a student who is under 18 can reside in Australia with a parent/legal custodian or a suitable relative who is over 21 years of age and is of good character. DIBP approves these arrangements.

Students who will not be cared for in Australia by a parent/legal custodian or approved relative must have their accommodation and welfare arrangements approved by the University. This involves the University checking and monitoring the suitability of a student’s accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements. The University’s responsibility in this regard extends to students whose enrolment has been terminated, suspended or cancelled until:

- the student leaves Australia;
other suitable arrangements are made that satisfy the Migration regulations; or
the student is accepted by another registered provider who is willing to take on the responsibility for approving the student’s care arrangements.

The University is also responsible for reporting to DIBP if a student’s accommodation arrangements change and the University does not approve the new arrangements.

6. University approved accommodation options

The preferred option of the University is to place under 18 students for whom it has taken on responsibility for approving accommodation and welfare arrangements with a University approved homestay provider. The University will make regular contact with the host family to ensure the ongoing suitability of the arrangements.

The University will only approve different accommodation arrangements in exceptional circumstances.

7. Student welfare

All underage international students will be required to meet regularly on a one-to-one basis with the Student Support Officer or delegate to discuss concerns they may have about their living arrangements, academic progress and general welfare. A record of these meetings will be kept and added to the student’s file.

8. Responsibility of students

Underage students must seek prior approval from the University before changing their accommodation and welfare arrangements. Failure to comply with reasonable direction from the University in relation to their accommodation, support and general welfare will be reported to DIBP.

9. Grievances and appeals

Students should refer to the Student Grievance Management Policy if they have a complaint about decisions made by the University in relation to their accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements.