

## **[Culture]**

Terms like “uncle” and “auntie” can mean different things in different cultures. It’s important not to assume that the carer of the under 18 student is a blood relative. The onshore guardian may be a business associate of the family or even a friend of a friend that the student has never met before arriving in Australia. It is also possible that the student’s family don’t know this person particularly well either.

Where you have accepted responsibility for students’ Care, Accommodation and Welfare, make sure that all designated “relatives” are approved by the Department of Home Affairs list of suitable relatives. Make sure that this person has signed the Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) or that there is a person at your Centre that has approval to do this.

Another important cultural issue that may pop up in your under 18 programs is your young students’ abilities to function in an Australian high school classroom. Remember that expectations of student autonomy may be quite different to the students’ home countries.

Ensure that your teachers are familiar and up to date with the current modes of learning in the local high school programs that students are progressing into. A great example of best practice is for English language teachers to sit in on regular high school or middle school programs to understand what teaching and learning methodologies students will need to be able to cope with.

Younger students need to understand how much autonomy will be expected of them and how teachers often act as facilitators of learning in Australia rather than using chalk and talk direct instructional methods. Try to incorporate these insights into teacher professional development so that students are acquiring the cultural skills required to be a successful school student.