



**Welcome
Respect
Support**

Contact Information

For information contact the Homestay Coordinator at:
homestay@ballinaregionforrefugees.org.au



**Ballina Region
for Refugees**

**Homestay
Program**
Information
Guide

Through our Homestay Program we aim to build a bridge between asylum-seekers and refugees and the Australian community through our common humanity.

Geographical Reach

The Homestay Program is based around the Ballina region in the Northern Rivers of NSW. Hosts are located a maximum of 45 km by road from the Ballina Post Office. The Homestay Program maintains contact with other homestay programs operating in the Northern Rivers.

Selection criteria

Priority is given to asylum-seekers and refugees in need as determined by the referring party in conjunction with the Homestay Committee.

Capacity to host guests will be determined by availability of funds and/or homestay places.

The Homestay Committee interviews each host to find out their interests and availability and to look at the facilities of the home and surrounds. This enables the Committee to match our asylum seeker/refugee guests with a suitable host.

Key Objectives

To facilitate homestay arrangements for asylum seekers and refugees during their visa application process.

To provide secure opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees to engage in enriching experiences with people in regional NSW through the homestay program.

To help asylum-seekers and refugees get to know everyday Australians and for hosts to increase awareness of the lives of asylum-seekers and refugees.

Requests for homestay

Guest referrals come from support groups and people who advocate for asylum seekers and refugees.

Duration and support

Homestays may vary from a long weekend to one week. This is determined by the circumstances of the guest and the host.

Support is provided for the host in terms of meeting expectations and dealing with any issues prior to, during and after the visit. Hosts are briefed by a Homestay Officer before the visit and have access to that Officer, and the Homestay Well-Being Support Officer, before, during and after the visit.

BR4R pays travel costs for guests.

BR4R pays a small allowance for each guest per visit to assist with essential expenses.

Volunteers

The Homestay Program also has a number of people who volunteer their time to support hosts by offering excursions and/or transport for guests.

Testimonials

It's like the best medicine to relax and meet friendly and caring people.

Homestay Guest

My homestay has changed my perspective of Australians.

Homestay Guest

Being hosts has been a wonderful rewarding experience to learn first-hand about the danger that refugees have endured. We've learnt that they are just like us with the same aspirations, fears and concerns.

Homestay Host

