

Frequently Asked Questions -

Vacation Travel to Other Overseas Destinations

Question:

Are student visa holders (for whom the school holds a CAAW) allowed to travel to an overseas country (other than their own) during vacation time?

Response:

Student visa holders for whom a school holds welfare responsibility *are* able to travel to an overseas destination (other than their own home country).

In such circumstances, it will be the responsibility of the child's family to arrange the necessary travel visa which permits his/her entry into the relevant country.

With regards to welfare responsibility, the school continues to hold welfare responsibility for the child right up to the point that he/she departs Australia. This responsibility resumes again as soon as the child lands back in Australia after the vacation period. The only exception to a school having this welfare responsibility is if the legal parent or guardian comes to Australia to personally collect their child, at which point he/she can be released into the parent's direct care and supervision.

In the lead up to the student's overseas vacation, a school should:

- Obtain written confirmation from the overseas student's legal parents/guardian regarding the details of the proposed vacation, and their approval for the holiday arrangements.
- Obtain a copy of the bookings for the child's departure and return flights.
- Be satisfied with (and approve) the plans in place for the child to get to and from the airport (presumably this will involve some correspondence with either the homestay family or boarding house staff). Any arrangements that are of concern to the school need to be rectified to the PEOs satisfaction.
- Monitor the child's safe return to his/her approved living arrangement once back in Australia.
- Keep records of all of the above on the overseas student's file.