Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hosting international students a way to
'bring a little bit of the world into your home'

TOWNSVILLE, Australia – 22 February 2023: Cairns and Townsville are gearing up to help Queensland maintain its position as Australia's largest regional education exporter.

Students from across the globe are arriving in Australia to begin their studies, with education providers like James Cook University (JCU) preparing to welcome strong numbers of international students to their North Queensland campuses.

Locals in both Cairns and Townsville have the opportunity to become 'Aussie ambassadors' by signing up as homestay hosts.

Townsville host, Kerri Player, has experienced the benefits firsthand since she began hosting students through the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) in 2019.

"Being a homestay host is a way to bring a little bit of the world into your home without having to travel yourself.

"Having a host student means that we re-find all the wonderful and interesting places around our city because we want to show them off!

"We see familiar places through new eyes and it is lovely to share these experiences with enthusiastic people.

"We also encourage our students to share their favourite foods and customs with us," Mrs Player said.

JCU Deputy Vice Chancellor, Services and Resources, Tricia Brand said the University is seeing a big jump in international enrolments, and students benefited from the family environment provided by homestay hosts.

"Some of our students are a long way from home, and they appreciate the familiarity of a home environment as they focus on their studies. They also benefit from their hosts' local knowledge of what the region has to offer.

"The rental markets in Townsville and Cairns are particularly tight, and it's particularly difficult for students who might only want accommodation during the semester.

"Students add a lot to the life of our two cities – as casual staff in hospitality and other roles while they're studying, and as the next generation of our professional workforce after graduation.

"If you have a spare room at your place, we encourage you to contact the Australian Homestay Network to see if there's a student who might fit in with your household."

Julie Manche from the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) said locals had the chance to be part of a unique cultural exchange.

"Homestay hosts get to meet people from all over the world, learn new languages, discover different cultures and be paid for the experience," Mrs Manche said.

"The opportunity to be a homestay host is open to all types of households. The right people will be willing to show students what living in Australia is all about and treat them like they're part of the family.

"If you're keen to share your home and welcome international students to the community – give hosting a try."

AHN – which has placed more than 67,500 students in homestay since 2008 – provides training, insurance and 24/7 support for all participants.

Interested families can learn more about hosting and register with the Australian Homestay Network at ahnhomestay.co/nthqldhost or contact the team on (07) 5606 7013.

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ABOUT AHN
Australian Homestay Network (AHN) is Australia's largest and most recognised international student homestay provider. We match AHN-certified hosts with visiting international students to provide the highest quality homestay experience while they study in Australia. Since 2008, AHN has placed over 67,500 students from 185 countries in homestay accommodation. AHN services every capital city in the country along with other key student destinations. Our offering includes flexible packages for both under 18s and over 18s as well as homestays for study tour groups.

AHN is the industry leader, dedicated to delivering global standards, technology and best practices across its network of services.