

CANZ Billeting Policy

Updated 07/09/2020

Note that the Vulnerable Children's Act doesn't require volunteers to be police vetted.

Parents of our students are aware that billeting is a key part of their children being a member of NZSSC.

Our billeting families do not get paid to host our students so are volunteers, although concert tickets and food vouchers are sometimes provided as koha towards the costs of hosting hungry teenagers!

CANZ recognises the benefits students gain from the cultural exchange and building connections in the communities the choir travels to. For some of our students, billets helps them build their confidence interacting with a range of different people, particularly when overseas.

There are financial implications for CANZ if students are not billeted. Billeting allows CANZ to provide students with equal access to participate and maximises the range of opportunities students are able to experience as a member of NZSSC.

What measures are taken to protect students who are placed with billets?

The primary safety measure is that students are billeted in pairs. Our students are paired together according to their age and confidence.

We also require hosts to sign an agreement that sets out shared expectations (see page 2).

Further protective measures are:

- Most hosts are recommended to us by organisers of festivals we may attend, family and friends of students, and the wider choirs Aotearoa whanau.
- Through CANZ Your Voice we promote different ways for our students to speak up about anything that may make them uncomfortable, and this is reiterated around billeting.
- Staff see the students all day every day and monitor how students are coping each day.
- Staff may arrange alternative arrangements for students, including escalating issues to leadership and placing students in different accommodation if needs be.
- The NZSSC Manager and Student Welfare managers have their cell phones turned on and can be contacted by students or billeting families at any time during the course.

If a situation happens our response plan is detailed on page 3 below.

New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir Host Agreement

Thank you so much for offering to host members of the NZSSC. Billeting is a vital way to keep choir membership fees at an affordable level, so you are offering invaluable support to all our talented young members and their families – this is greatly appreciated!

The NZSSC is committed to the provision of safe and appropriate billeting standards offered to students during choir rehearsal gatherings. To ensure we meet those standards we ask host families to be mindful of the following guidelines:

- Students will be billeted in at least pairs. Students may not know each other well, but we pair them up carefully and expect them to support each other in times of homesickness, ill health etc.
- Students can **share a room but not a bed**. Camp beds/mattresses are quite acceptable.
- The age of the students ranges from 14 to 19. ALL members, regardless of age, agree to abide with the NZ secondary school rules which include **absolutely no alcohol or non-prescription drugs**.
- Students and hosts can **contact choir staff** at any time. Please contact us if you have any concerns or they are unwell or injured.

Carole Randall (NZSSC Student Welfare and Logistics Manager) **027 295 6477**

Anna Bowron (NZSSC Manager) **021 113 4520**

- Please ensure students' have **your contact number**, both work/day and home.
- Students requesting to go out on their own (ie socially) should always seek permission from NZSSC staff listed above - please ask students if they have done this. If students are meeting other choir members, the minimum number of students to gather is FOUR. A timeframe of the outing should be agreed by students and hosts. See note about swimming below.
- A reasonable **curfew time** is home by 10.00pm, in bed/bedroom by 10.30pm. Our members work very hard at rehearsals and need plenty of sleep during a course.
- We are very happy for hosts to take their billets out socially, sightseeing, swimming etc. Host supervision is *essential* when swimming.
- We do not allow students to stay overnight at other hosts' homes without NZSSC pre-arrangement.
- We expect our members to be fine youth ambassadors for NZ and always present themselves well both on and off stage. If you do not have this experience while billeting members, please let us know.
- Overall, we ask our hosts to treat their students with care, kindness and respect. It is important that your students feel safe in the environment we have placed them in.

Please sign this agreement and return to Anna Bowron: anna@choirsnz.co.nz

I have read and understood the billeting guidelines above:

Signed _____

Name _____

Date _____

Please list all the people who will be in the house over the period of hosting, and your relationship to them (eg my partner James, my son Peter):

Choirs Aotearoa New Zealand Billeting Response Plan

As per Your Voice, a student will come to either NZSSC Manager or NZSSC Student Welfare and Course Logistics Manager with their problem

