

Dear Future Host Family,

Hi!! My name is Arabella. I'm 15 years old and in Year 9, and I live in Australia in a city called Wollongong that is in the Illawarra region, my suburb is called Bulli. I live 200 meters from the beach, we have lovely walking paths and ocean pools.

I go to St Mary Star of the Sea College. It is an all girls school with a great culture, they really focus on female empowerment and women in STEM as well as creative and performing arts. I went to a co-educational primary school that was very small!

The area I live in has a really friendly community and there's always something happening, which I love. One of my favourite things to do is swim in the ocean, pools, waterparks, basically anywhere there's water! I swim a lot in Summer but am happy to go all year round.

I'm a really outgoing, energetic and bubbly person who LOVES meeting new people. I'm definitely a people person and friendships are really important to me. I love being around others, talking, laughing and doing activities together. I have a lot of friends, but my closest friends are Eloise, Madi, Halle, Emma, Sophia, Genova and Mia. They mean a lot to me and we always have fun together.

I enjoy being busy and having things to do, whether that's something active and exciting or something more relaxed like exploring a museum, walking around a city, or looking at interesting places and views. I enjoy wandering through museums and learning about artefacts just as much as doing something energetic. I also really enjoy walking through town, exploring lakes, forests, flower fields, and viewpoints, shopping, and seeing new places.

I have one sibling, my brother Taj, who can be annoying as you can expect from most little brothers (he is 1.5 yrs younger than me), but he can also be super fun and although we have different interests we always manage to find something to do together!

My mum and dad do a lot for our family and work hard to keep things running at home. My dad works in security with the government and works really hard to keep Australia safe, and my mum works as an interior designer and a business analyst of health care. Sometimes it feels like they favor my brother more than me, which can be frustrating, but I know they still care about me! Even when things aren't always fair, they still support me and want the best for our family.

At school my favourite subjects are Maths, Technology, Drama, PDHPE and Forensic Science. I enjoy subjects where I can think creatively or solve problems. I don't mind English either. I am also in extension English and accelerated maths. One of my favourite parts of school is drama and musical theatre. I LOVE performing and being part of productions. I've been in several school productions and some performances outside of school. Being on stage is something that makes me really happy because of the teamwork, creativity and excitement that comes with it.

I also enjoy being active and trying different sports. I previously played league tag and Oz tag, and I swim for fun. In PE I really enjoy European handball, and I also like to play netball and basketball (even though I'm still improving). I have previously done aerial silks as a sport, which is really fun and challenging.

One of my biggest passions is horse riding. I've loved horses since I was little and recently I've started riding more regularly. I can trot, canter and jump as well. I've ridden many horses over time and some of my favourites were Axel and Crockett. Being around horses is something I always enjoy and I love continuing to improve my riding.

Another activity I REALLY enjoy is escape rooms. I love solving clues and working together to figure everything out. They're honestly one of my favourite things to do. I also enjoy activities like laser tag, rock climbing and other fun challenges.

I am a big fan of thrill rides. Roller coasters, waterparks and theme parks are always exciting for me. I've been to quite a few theme parks over the years. Some of my favourite rides were the Vortex ride and the Leviathan coaster at SeaWorld, and the Joker roller coaster at Movie World on the Gold Coast. Jamberoo Action Park is also about 40 minutes from where I live. This year I had a season pass and got to go SOOO many times with my friends.

Animals are really special to me and I've always loved them. At home I have three pets: two cats and one dog. My cats are Stormy and Winter. Stormy is a ragdoll cross and Winter is a British Shorthair who is VERY grumpy but still adorable. My dog Pepper is a Bichon Frise cross Poodle, he is always happy and loves everyone. I help take care of them and love spending time with them. One of my favourite things is when they come and snuggle with me, and sometimes they even sleep on my bed at night.

I also really enjoy baking, especially sweet treats and desserts. Trying new foods is something I'm always excited for. Some of my absolute favourite foods are orange duck, duck soup, beef

cheeks, pork belly and goulash. I also love things like berries, fruit salads ,pastries and anything chocolate. I also LOVE cheese!

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, watching movies or shows, and playing games. One game I especially enjoy is Monopoly Deal. I also love singing... although I should probably apologise in advance for my TERRIBLE shower singing.

In the future I'm still figuring out exactly what I want to do when I'm older. Some careers I've always been interested in are becoming a veterinarian because I love animals, a lawyer or an anesthetist. Those are a couple of the ideas I've had since I was little, but I'm also open to discovering new interests along the way.

I have Dutch, German and Irish heritage, which is something I'm really proud of. My mum was born in Australia however her Dad, my Pop is from the Netherlands and my Nan was from Germany. My Dad has the Irish heritage, he was also born in Australia.

I'm SO excited about the opportunity to go on this exchange. Experiencing a new culture, learning about another country's traditions, food and seeing what everyday life is like somewhere else sounds amazing to me. I'm really looking forward to becoming part of your family, spending time together and sharing everyday life with you. I'm very open to new experiences and can't wait to learn as much as I can.

I only speak a little bit of Danish and have only just started learning but am SO excited to learn more!

Thank you so much for considering hosting me. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and SO excited for this experience.

I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU GUYS!!

Warm wishes,
Arabella

Dear host family,

Hello from Australia we are the Donnelly family and thank you so much for taking the time to read about our daughter Arabella.

The idea that a family somewhere in the world is willing to open their home and welcome a student they have never met is something we find truly special. We are incredibly grateful to families like yours who make exchange experiences possible.

Our daughter has a very adventurous, caring, and respectful nature. She enjoys trying new things and is always curious about the world around her. Whether it's exploring new places, learning about different cultures, or meeting new people, she approaches life with enthusiasm and an open mind. This is one of the reasons she is so excited about the opportunity to be an exchange student.

She is also a thoughtful and caring person who values relationships with the people around her. At home, she enjoys spending time with family, sharing conversations, and being part of everyday family life. She has a brother, and growing up with a sibling has helped her learn patience, cooperation, and how to share both space and experiences with others.

One thing that has always been very special about her is her love for animals. She absolutely loves animals and pets, and they seem to love her right back. Whether it's spending time with a family pet, helping care for animals, or simply enjoying their company, she is always happiest when animals are around.

While she enjoys adventure and new experiences, she is also responsible and dependable. She understands that living with a host family means becoming part of the household—respecting rules, helping when needed, and showing appreciation for the opportunity she has been given.

We believe she will bring positivity, kindness, and curiosity into your home. She is excited to learn about your culture, try new foods, celebrate traditions, and share a little of her own life and experiences with you as well.

Thank you again for considering hosting Arabella. We hope this exchange experience will create wonderful memories and a special connection between our families.

Thanks Belinda and Troy Donnelly.