

Safety and Security

Although Australia is a relatively safe country we recommend students familiarise themselves with and apply the following safety guidelines/tips whilst living in Australia. These are endorsed by the Australian Police Force.

When you are out:

- Always tell someone where you are going and whom you are with
- Don't taste other people's drinks as it makes it harder to count how much alcohol you have consumed
- Keep an eye on each other's drinks to avoid having your drink spiked – take turns to go dancing or finish your drinks first
- Keep your valuables out of sight or where you can see and reach them, especially mobile phones and wallets. If you go dancing take your handbags or wallets onto the dance floor
- If you feel strange tell a friend and leave with people you trust
- Until you feel at home do not go to a stranger's house and do not invite a stranger to yours
- Avoid getting into heated discussions – logic and rationale thought are affected by alcohol or illicit drugs
- If a friend is seriously affected by alcohol or illicit drugs or has overdosed, call an ambulance immediately
- If travelling late at night it is advisable to hire a taxi

Walking:

- Stick to major routes and roads and don't take short cuts
- Use footpaths that are well lit and not closed in by bushes or obstacles
- Stay in groups of people
- Change direction if you think you are being followed and seek a safe place

Transport:

On the train:

- Travel in the guard's compartment identified by a blue light, or in carriages that have groups of people who could assist if needed
- Travel in groups of friends
- Arrive at the station as close to the departure time of the train as possible and stand where the station is well lit

In a taxi:

- Sit in the back of the taxi and travel with friends
- Give clear directions where you want to go – if you are not on the agreed route, terminate the trip. If feeling unsure, insist on being taken to a safe place and terminate the trip

Driving and Parking:

- Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car in readiness, especially if they are hard to find in a handbag
- Cars that have easy access may be a target – keep your doors locked with as much visual security as possible (steering wheel locks etc)
- Never leave valuables where they can be seen
- Car Parks with a parking attendant or supervised/patrolled are best, otherwise try to park in locations that are well lit and/or well populated and not crowded in by bushes or buildings where offenders might hide
- Arriving together with a group of friends or meeting each other at a designated place ensures you are not alone for long periods and reduces the appearance of vulnerability. Offenders target people who appear vulnerable
- Do not get into a car with someone unless you know them well and trust them

Major Events and public spaces:

- Never leave valuables unattended at the beach, in parks or at major events, including leaving car keys hidden on the car. Offenders watch the movements of people in public spaces to pick their targets. Be obvious that you are alert and not alone
- Stay with your group – especially in large crowds during New Years Eve etc, and watch out for each other
- Tell people where you are going and what time you will return
- Don't take too many belongings and bags
- Keep belongings in the middle of your circle and always have one person with them
- Use alcohol in moderation
- Drink plenty of water and give yourself enough time to get in and out of where you want to be

Safety of home/property:

- Do not keep much money at home
- Always lock the doors and windows of your home, flat or room when you leave it. Check doors and windows before you leave your home.
- Scratch, engrave your name or some identification on your valuable property e.g.: radios, videos and cameras. This discourages thieves and allows you to identify your property if it is stolen.
- Photocopy details of your credit cards, identification and passport and give to the School's administration Officer for safekeeping. Think seriously about insuring your valuables. There are a number of insurance companies. See Student Services staff for more details