

For immediate release
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NAISDA appealing for Central Coast families to host their Developing Artists

NAISDA Dance College is appealing for Central Coast families to participate in the NAISDA HomeStay Program, where they will have an opportunity to host a NAISDA student and welcome them into their home while they study at the College in 2016.

This comes as a number of Developing Artists are still seeking suitable accommodation as they prepare to launch their studies at NAISDA. The College, based at Mt Penang, has a proud tradition of producing the next generation of professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers.

General Manager of NAISDA Dance College, Debra Schleger, is calling for Central Coast families to support NAISDA's young and budding artists by joining the HomeStay Program, which includes a support payment plan that covers students' at home costs.

"We've received a good response to our 2016 HomeStay Program so far, but are still seeking expressions of interest from local families who are able to invite our young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students into their homes for a twelve-month period.

"The majority of our Developing Artists travel from remote communities from around Australia to attend NAISDA, so the Homestay Program is crucial to helping them undertake their studies and work towards their goals.

"We have the capacity to accommodate a number of students at our Mt Penang Parklands campus, however many younger students require the additional support that a family provides."

NAISDA has a comprehensive accreditation process that ensures a positive experience for families and the students alike. Selected families will be provided with support payments as well as continued assistance from NAISDA staff.

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of Central Coast families each year and we hope that once again in 2016 families will share their homes with an aspiring student chasing their dream of becoming a dancer.

"Housing NAISDA students is an extremely rewarding experience. It also offers a chance to immerse yourself in our nation's rich cultural heritage," concluded Debra.

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This year the College will be celebrating its 40th anniversary and will be marking the milestone with a series of special events, including a community Open Day in March.

Central Coast families can express their interest in joining the HomeStay Program by contacting NAISDA directly on (02) 4340 3100, or by emailing Sue Gosson on s.gosson@naisda.com.au.

-ENDS-

For more information and interviews:

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