



**WESTERN SPRINGS COLLEGE**

## **Homestay Accommodation Information for Students**

Students attending Western Springs College will be living with English speaking families in Homestay accommodation in one of the suburbs close to the college or handy to the school bus or public bus transportation. The houses of New Zealand families are mostly built in the 'detached' style which means they are separated from other houses and stand on their own piece of land with trees or shrubs and gardens and often a small grass lawn.

The houses in the main are made of wooden planks called 'weatherboards'. An average house would have three bedrooms with a lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and toilet, laundry and a veranda or an enclosed porch.

Western Springs College pays the host families \$210 per week. For this amount of money a student is given his or her own room with a single bed, a desk and chair, reading lamp, a wardrobe for storing clothes, and maybe book shelves and a set of drawers. The host family provides three meals per day, with a packed lunch prepared by the host or students themselves and taken to college. In New Zealand a normal 'school lunch' comprises some of the following- sandwiches of meat or cheese or salad, fruit (apples, oranges, bananas etc.), biscuits, cake, potato chips, fruit and grain bars, nuts, and water or fruit juice. Many students prefer to pack their own sandwich or bring some snack food such as pie or noodle dishes which can be heated at the college in a microwave oven which provided by the International Students Office.

There is a suburban train service to the Central City running through Mt Albert, Western Springs, Kingsland, Avondale and New Lynn. Students usually use the suburban bus services which operate along the main arterial roads such as Te Atatu Road, Titirangi Road, Great North Road, Balmoral Road, New North Road, Ponsonby road, Sandringham Road, Jervois Road, Williamson Avenue and Richmond Road. There are also special school bus services to cover most of the above areas by 3 school bus routes. The average cost of bus travel for students attending Western Springs College (who receive a student discount) is in the range of \$16 to \$30 per week.

There are many shopping areas in the suburbs surrounding Western Springs College, ranging from the St Lukes Westfield Mall (one of the largest shopping complexes in the Southern Hemisphere) to smaller local suburban shopping streets and the smaller general stores (called "Dairies" in New Zealand) where one can buy food items and a range of smaller household items. These small shops are also called "Corner Shops" and they are spread across all suburbs in New Zealand cities. It takes about 15 – 20 minutes on bus for the students to go downtown, where they may enjoy more interesting culture of the international city.