



Anja – Switzerland

Hi there!

My name is Anja, I'm 16 years old and at the moment I live in Sydney, Australia. Last year I decided to put my life in Switzerland on hold to go and experience the Australian way of life for 11 months. I applied at a Swiss exchange organisation which then connected me to CEA Campus Education Australia in Australia. As a part of the Sydney program I had the possibility to choose three different host families from a list with a description and photos and I could choose the one I liked the most and they were going to be my new family for the time of my stay.

The family I'm living with is great and I wouldn't want to change for the world.

My host mother and father are both really nice and helped me to feel like home for the whole time. **My host sister Katie (17 yrs. old) and I got on well from practically the very first day and now we are like real sisters. I think my host family helped me really quite a bit to hardly ever feel homesick and make my year here a full success.**

The school here is definitely different to my school in Switzerland. Here they have a big number of subjects and I could elect five to six out of them. The school are pretty laid back. Also, they don't have classes but you're with different people in every course. This made it a bit difficult to make friends, but with a bit of patience I eventually found some awesome friends.

On the weekends I sometimes went out with friends or stayed home. **Sydney itself is really beautiful and there's always loads to see and do.** Also in the area I live in are quite a few nice beaches, malls, cinemas, etc. Since I've never really had homework or many tests (which I really appreciated) I had a lot of free time. Earlier this year I also joined a local soccer club which kept me occupied on Sundays.

During the holidays I had the chance to go to the Blue Mountains for a few days, which was a really nice trip. In the winter holidays my host family took me to the Gold Coast for a week and my host sister and me could then plan our own program. The last two weeks of my year I'll also visit the Outback and the Whitsundays.

Generally, **I really enjoyed my year down under.** Australia is such a beautiful country and the people are really nice too. So to anyone who has ever thought about going exchange, I can only say: **Do it, you won't regret it!** Anja.....