



27 March 2020

Rotary District 9705 Youth Exchange Program Suspended

It is with regret that, in the light of advice regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Rotary District 9705 has decided to suspend its Youth Exchange Program for the foreseeable future.

This is the impact:

- The program is cancelled for those students from abroad selected to come to Australia in the middle of 2020.
- The selection process for students to go abroad at the beginning of 2021 will no longer proceed
- Students who are currently on exchange will receive appropriate support from the program
- Some of these students have already cut short their program and returned home
- All other students will be supported in any decision making in discussion with their parents.

Rotary District 9705 has over 80 clubs covering an area in southern New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory including Nowra and south to the Bega region. It continues west to include the Tumut, Wagga Wagga, Narrandera and Griffith regions. It also includes the Orange, Bathurst, the Southern Tablelands and Canberra Capital regions. This Rotary District is a result of a merger of the previous Rotary Districts 9700 and 9710.

The Rotary International Youth Exchange Program is a matter of pride for Rotary. Clubs from across District 9705 support upper secondary students departing Australia as well as welcoming students from abroad for an exchange year. Our program includes exchange partnerships in countries within Asia, Europe, North and South America with a commitment to upper secondary studies.

Rotarians make a commitment to support students leaving their own countries and to home-host them while they learn about the daily lives in their host country. The program is designed to promote peace and understanding globally as well as to build individual leadership skills through the program.

Recommencing the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. We look forward to recommencing the program and Rotarians will be working hard through the “stand down” period to evaluate the program and to determine how we can make it even better for future students and families who are involved with the program.

For further information:

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