

From E Hiang(Mother) :

I find the programme itself very useful and educational in the context of self development. I noticed a lot of our children had somehow changed for the better in terms of attitude as well as outlook in life. They got to compare different lifestyles and I am sure a lot of them preferred the Australian way of upbringing children - the free for all style. However, as typical Asian parents, that is not the way we would like to bring up our children. I guess there is always 2 sides to a coin. Their style will nurture and shape our children to be more independent but may not inculcate moral values which we emphasize a lot. After her return, Ashley suddenly realized that she actually enjoys preparing dinners together with the host family and that she is also capable of cooking! Guess she was never given the opportunity when in our home because partly she didn't have enough time and there is always a 'kakak' or grandma to do it.

Well, I have learnt a lot from this programme and would like to thank the school administrators for selecting my family. It was an experience to cherish and remember.

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From Ashley :

I like to environment and the education system but not the academic materials. I find their environment very friendly and they have a lot of outdoor activities which we hardly get to enjoy in Malaysia. Everywhere seems so safe whether outdoor or indoor. I get to walk to and from school which my parents will never allow in Malaysia. Many school friends live in the same vicinity and everyone is very friendly. I also note that they have everything like convenient stores and eating outlets within easy reach. I particularly like the carefree style of children's upbringing. Kids are allowed to do so many things that we don't get to do in Malaysia especially the outdoor stuffs like going to the beach and barbeques.

However, I am don't really like school's academic standards. I find what the Aussie kids have to learn too basic and not challenging enough for me. But I enjoyed the school system which is relaxing and fun - especially the breaks. The Aussie kids are very playful and that made my days in school fun. I also noticed that the most of their teachers are not so serious and fierce. The other consolation is the little homework and no tuition policy. After school its back home, do little homework and only sometimes and then its really really home time. We prepare dinners, shower, watch TV or spend time and play with the family members. There is no more pressure to finish school or tuition work at home like in Malaysia. Here both parents and students have become 'kiasu' due to peer pressures as well as the need to excel academically. My wish is to be able to experience Australian school system and the Malaysian school syllabus because I want to be smart and at the same time have fun. I would love to participate in the programme again if given a chance.