Fact Sheet

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange Ltd. (S.C.C.E.) is a not-for-profit professional organisation specialising in international educational exchange programs. S.C.C.E. has exchanged over 16,700 students with 20 countries since 1983 when the organisation was founded in Australia with the following stated purpose:

* To further tolerance
* To challenge youth towards international understanding
* To challenge youth towards further learning
* To enhance self-knowledge and awareness.

THE ORGANISATION:
- Founded and based in Australia as the first home-grown international student exchange organisation.
- Incorporated in 1983 with the National Office in Melbourne, Victoria.
- Represented also in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth by professional staff.
- Over 8600 Australian students have gone on S.C.C.E. programs.
- Over 8100 international students have been hosted by Australian families.
- Approved and registered with Australian federal and state Education Departments.
- Recognised by the Immigration and Education authorities in relevant countries.
- First Australian organisation to be accepted as a member of the Federation of International Youth Travel Organisations, later amalgamated as World Youth Student & Educational Travel Confederation.
- Excellent worldwide reputation and recognition for high standard of quality programs.
- Regular reviews of performance of country-exclusive international affiliate organisations.

THE STAFF:
- Professionals from the fields of cross-cultural exchange, education, and travel.
- Affiliated organisations overseas have been selected because of their capacity to provide the best program components, students, and host families in a given country.
- The overseas affiliate organisations are contracted exclusively with S.C.C.E. regarding exchange to and from Australia. S.C.C.E. does not use agents.
- Staffs are available on a 24-hour basis. Through S.C.C.E. experience in the field, a network of professional exchange organisations is available worldwide.

PROGRAMS:
- For the age group 15-18, programs varying from 6 weeks to ten months are offered to 17 countries.
- All programs include voluntary host families, school attendance, compulsory orientation, one student to a host family, and special insurance.
- Group exchange programs, 3-6 weeks, are arranged for several Australian schools or available annually.
- S.C.C.E. Australian students travel on Singapore Airlines to all destinations other than the Americas. This allows daily "best" services for all Australian students. Transportation to and from the host community is also included in the fee.
- A variety of host families throughout Australia are welcome to share their daily lives with compatible students from one of the countries listed below.
- S.C.C.E.’s financial support comes from the program fees.

ORGANISATIONAL FEATURES:
- Ability to respond to needs of Australian educators regarding intercultural exchange.
- High standards for student selection, preparation, and support.
- Worldwide network of professional support for 30 years.
- Ability to innovate, diversify, and adapt programs and procedures, as necessary.
- Programs reflect the needs and values of Australian students, families, schools.

AFFILIATED COUNTRIES:
ARGENTINA AUSTRIA CHINA DENMARK ENGLAND FINLAND FRANCE GERMANY HOLLAND IRELAND ITALY JAPAN MEXICO NORWAY SPAIN SWEDEN U.S.A.

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