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Chinese Student Killed in Exchange Program in Edgeworth

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– Categories: Crime



A 14-year-old Chinese student has died after allegedly being stabbed by a fellow student while both were staying with the same host family in Edgeworth, near Newcastle in New South Wales (NSW), Australia.

The alleged incident occurred late on Monday night. Emergency services responded to reports of a stabbing, and the 14-year-old was rushed to John Hunter Hospital, where she later died from her injuries.

The alleged attacker, a 13-year-old girl, was arrested at the scene and charged with murder. She did not apply for bail and remains in custody after appearing in Broadmeadow Children's Court on Wednesday.

Court proceedings revealed the younger girl is "severely unwell" and on multiple medications. Magistrate Andrew Eckhold acknowledged a "clear mental health nexus" in the case but underscored the gravity of the charge.

According to NSW Police, both girls were involved in a cultural study program and had arrived in Australia just eight days before the incident. Investigators confirmed the two did not know each other prior to joining the program.

Superintendent Tracy Chapman stated that the investigation is ongoing and complicated by language barriers and the students' non-resident status.

In response to the tragedy, the Council of Australian Student Exchange Organisations (CASEO) issued a public statement expressing condolences. CASEO clarified that the students were part of a study abroad program, not a formal student exchange arrangement.

While both types of programs involve international study experiences, CASEO noted that study abroad programs differ significantly. They generally involve fee-paying students and fall outside the regulatory framework governing NSW student exchange programs, which require reciprocal placement and formal schooling.

"CASEO deeply values the safety and welfare of all young people engaging in student exchange or cultural programs," the statement read. "Although the students involved were not under an exchange program managed by CASEO member organisations, we extend our deepest sympathies."

The 13-year-old accused is scheduled to appear in court again in October, with a Mandarin interpreter to assist during proceedings.

Police continue to examine the relationship between the two girls and the circumstances surrounding the alleged attack.