



Preparing your student for graduation

After 13 years of schooling, preparing your student for graduation is a huge and exciting milestone. For some students the thought of adjusting to a life without school can be filled with mixed emotions at the thought of one chapter finishing and another beginning. Here are some tips on preparing your student for graduation and what comes next.

- 1. Celebrate the milestone.** Plan with your student how you will celebrate this big accomplishment. Marking the occasion with a celebration will help your student to associate the change as being a positive one.
- 2. Reflect and be thankful.** Reflect with your student how far they have come throughout their schooling life. Reminiscing on the highlights will help to bring closure that they are ready to move on.
- 3. Express emotions.** Graduation can be a mixed bag of emotions for both parents and students ranging from happiness to be free of a routine, sadness around not seeing friends daily, and anxiety about the future. Talk with your student about the emotions they are experiencing and offer them reassurance that the changes will be positively life-changing.



- 4. Focus on the future.** Look to the future and talk to your student about their plans for next year. It could be undertaking further study, starting an apprenticeship, entering the workforce or some other exciting venture.
- 5. Explore what's next.** Talk about next steps once year 12 is finished. There are many pathways which will take them to their desired future. If your student is feeling confused provide reassurance that this is normal.