

Heading off on holidays



It's the end of the school year and my teenager wants to go on a holiday with friends to celebrate.

Some young people may decide to go away from home to celebrate. Make time to talk about how you feel and talk openly about your concerns well before the event. Issues you might want to discuss include:

- where they are going and for how long
- who they are going with and your concerns if you do not know these people
- how they are getting there and back
- who else will be there
- where they will be staying
- how they can be contacted
- negotiating regular times to contact you
- organising contact details of other parents
- determining what the cost will be and who will be paying
- having a plan for emergency situations (who might they contact)
- other issues such as safe sex and drink spiking.

If your son/daughter is 18, talk to them about responsible drinking and penalties that apply to adults if they break the law by supplying liquor to their friends who are under 18.

If holidaying interstate or out of Australia, it is important to remember that different laws and penalties may apply.

Places offering accommodation or organised events may have websites you can check.

If your teenager is going to Schoolies Week, the Queensland government has a website that covers accommodation, organised activities and celebrating safely.

(www.schoolies.qld.gov.au)

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