

SCHOOLIES

BE SAFE AND WATCH YOUR MATES

As a parent of a Year 12 school leaver, you play a vital role in preparing your teen for their end-of-year celebrations.

GET INVOLVED

Having the conversations early and being involved in your teen's planning is an important opportunity to work through any concerns you may have.

TALKING WITH YOUR TEENAGER

It's important to establish an open line of communication with your teen about Schoolies. Talk to them before they leave about travel and accommodation, keeping in touch while they're away and the effects of alcohol and drugs.

For a lot of teens, Schoolies is the first time they have been away from home without adult supervision. Establish some ground rules and offer them some tips before they leave.

- Set a time for your teen to call you, or you to call them, while they're away.
- Remind them to make sure their phone is charged, switched on and has plenty of credit.
- If your teen is staying in accommodation, review the 'house rules' with them before they arrive at Schoolies to ensure they understand the legal document they are signing.
- Suggest your teen has a back-up plan when they go out. This should include identifying a location to meet their friends if they get separated and carrying enough money for a taxi so they can easily get back to their accommodation.
- Make sure your teen knows to always call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency before they go to Schoolies.
- It's important they know that they can contact you any time of the day or night and that you will be available.

Schoolies is also a good time to prepare your teen for the responsibility that comes with being an adult. This includes being mindful of the people who live and work in the

Schoolies area, keeping noise to a minimum and not behaving disruptively.

SOCIAL MEDIA

By now, it's likely your teen has established their own social media habits, however, it's never too late to remind them of risks involved in sharing photos on social media and via text messaging.

There are legal consequences of possessing, filming, photographing and sharing certain images:

- Possessing, posting or emailing inappropriate images of other people, particularly those aged under 16, is a criminal offence. Child pornography offences can apply if the photograph, image or footage is of someone under the age of 16.
- Your teen could be charged and face heavy fines or even a conviction if they film crimes or assaults for the purpose of sharing them online.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Tell your teen it is OK to say no. If they choose to drink alcohol, discuss how to drink responsibly. It is important for them to be aware that their tolerance to alcohol may be very different to someone else who drinks regularly, and to understand and know their limits.

Simple tips for you to share include:

- you don't need alcohol to have a good time
- limiting alcoholic drinks
- knowing when to stop drinking
- having water between alcoholic drinks
- eating some food
- combining alcohol and drugs, including prescription medication, is dangerous.

Drink-spiking can happen. Explain that most drink spiking is done by friends and people you know, and alcohol is the substance used most often. Remind your teenager if they do choose to drink to keep it with them at all times, keep it covered in a crowded place and not to accept drinks from people they don't know or trust.

Make sure your teen knows that they should call Triple Zero (000) immediately if they think that their drink, or a friend's drink, has been spiked.

Talk to your teen about the dangers of drugs. Drugs are illegal, and they affect everybody differently. Illicit drug users can never be sure what they are taking and how they will react to it. These types of drugs are extremely dangerous. Misusing prescription medication can be similarly dangerous.

The safest option is not to use drugs.

FINES AND THE LAW

Drug convictions can affect employment opportunities and the ability to travel overseas.

Teens can be fined for using a friend's ID, lending ID to a friend, defacing an ID to gain entry to a licensed premises and making and using a fake ID.

If your teen is driving at Schoolies, make sure they are aware of the drink driving laws and know that they may still have alcohol in their system on the day after they have been drinking.

On-the-spot fines can be issued to teens for:

- drinking in a public space
- underage drinking or possession of liquor in a public place, even if they are only holding a drink for a friend
- being on licensed premises when underage
- supplying alcohol to an underage friend.

DON'T RISK IT

If your teen is 18 and buys alcohol for their underage friends, they could be fined up to \$10,444. Parents can also be fined for providing alcohol to underage teenagers for consumption in an unsupervised environment.

SUPPORT AND SERVICES

Let your teen know what support is in place. Safety initiatives include wristbands or photo ID for identification, street patrols, walk-home services, schoolies-only areas, free water, medical assistance and mental health support. The Red Frogs also provide support to schoolies in accommodation venues.

Each location has its own access requirements, but all require student photo ID to take advantage of the free activities and support services available.

MORE INFORMATION

The Queensland Government does not promote participation in Schoolies but seeks to enhance the safety and responsible behaviour of school-leavers at Schoolies Community Safety Response locations and to minimise disruption to local communities.

For more information about the Schoolies Community Safety Responses, including information for parents and guardians of school leavers, visit the Schoolies website at schoolies.qld.gov.au and follow us on Facebook:

@SchooliesGC

@SchooliesInfoforParents