



## AW facilitator resource kit.

### PARENT CEREMONY

#### **purpose.**

One way to soften the return home for students on an Into Adulthood camp with AW is to invite the parents along for a ceremony at the end of a program. This creates a space for students to share their experiences with parents and for parents to gain a small insight into how the program has impacted their child. Below are some ways to deliver this process successfully.

NOTE: Steps 1-3 won't vary much across each program, they are:

#### **Step one: Priming the group before the parents arrive (10min)**

Bring the energy of the group up by playing their favourite game from the camp (e.g. flinch/camouflage/bang)

#### **Step two: Frame up the ceremony (5min)**

Invite students to join you in circle and brief them on what is about to happen. E.g. "In a moment, your parents will arrive. We will send two volunteers to go and collect them and when they get to our spot, I will formally welcome them. Once that is done, you will have 20min alone with your parents to share with them what the experience has been like. Think about sharing your favourite memory, your biggest challenge, what made you laugh most. Once that 20min is up, I will invite you all back into a circle and the rest is a surprise."

#### **Step three: Welcome the parents (5min)**

Once the parents have joined your group, welcome them in circle and then invite them to spend time with their child catching up on everything that's happened since you've been away. Allow 20min before moving on to step four.

Below are some variations on how to run steps 4-5.

#### **session example 1.**

Group	15 x Year 9s
Program	Into Adulthood
Session Length	60min
	<b>Step four: Ceremony part one (using PLAY)</b>
	Invite everyone back together to join you in a circle and have the students create a circle inside the adults, so that they are facing each other. Then hand out question cards to each person. Tell the group that when you say GO, you want them to ask each other the questions, swap cards and then the students will rotate in a clockwise direction to ask the next person their new questions. Run this for about 15min.
Delivery	<b>Step five: Ceremony part two (using STORY)</b>
	At the conclusion of the energiser, invite everyone back into one big circle. Use the time left to honour each student, individually, in front of their parent. You might choose to use the wooden discs here. In preparation the night before, write the name of the student on one side and one strength of theirs that you have witnessed on the other side. This serves as a prompter when doing the honouring.



## session example 2.

Group	15 x Year 9s
Program	Into Adulthood
Session Length	60min
Delivery	<p><b>Step four: Ceremony part one (using STORY)</b> Invite everyone back together to join you in a circle and with a stick, begin to draw a mud map of the campsite. Start to tell the story of the camp from your perspective, drawing on the ground as you go. At different points, stop to honour the students for strengths you witnessed at that moment in the camp.</p> <p><b>NOTE: This process requires some planning. I recommend writing the story as you go throughout the camp so that you can be informed and authentic during delivery.</b></p> <p><b>Step five: Ceremony part two (using STORY)</b> Invite students to add any memories or stories to the mud map.</p>

## success looks like.

- ✓ Every group member honoured by the facilitator in front of the adults
- ✓ Adults and students appear connected and like they are enjoying the experience
- ✓ Adults leave with a sense of understanding for what students have experienced
- ✓ The mood of the group is positive