**ABSTUDY guide for providers: Special purpose travel transcript**

NARRATOR: Boarding schools and hostels can access ABSTUDY Special Purpose Travel to support their students during the school term. ABSTUDY can arrange special purpose travel for a family or community member to visit a student if they're having trouble adjusting or they're at risk of disengaging. It can also be used for a family or community member to attend important events at the school such as sporting events, school plays, an award ceremony, teacher parent interviews, or graduation.

JODIE: There's special purpose travel that's available to families and students throughout the year. If they have any events as in awards nights or a play or any really special event, family members can travel to the school.

NARRATOR: Cowboys House in Townsville uses special purpose travel, as well as orientation travel in a number of ways throughout the year.

LEIGH: We definitely utilise all the special purpose travel that we can to engage in that. We've flown to communities to do interviews before. We've also flown parents down here to, to Townsville, to do orientation, which is so important to make sure that they're being successful from day one and we're, we're working as a team.

NARRATOR: They also bring families to Townsville for special events. It gives the students a chance to show off their home and build community.

LEIGH: So in September, we invite all our families to come down we have a big NAIDOC event here. The families actually contribute to that day, so they may run an activity. And again, we make it over a long, long weekend there. So they're here for, for that weekend and they can actually see what we're doing here. And we can learn from, from that day as well.

We do it in the middle of the term for a reason why we get families here. It's because we know that's, that's the toughest period. The data shows that. And for them to be able to see a family member see a familiar face connect from someone from home, they're going to be reengaged for the next four weeks. And, you know, have that light at the end of the tunnel.

NARRATOR: Special purpose travel also helps students who are having trouble settling into their new schools. St. Patrick's College bring family or community members to Townsville if one of their students is homesick.

KATIE: If we're having issues with, you know, a girl, really just having really heavy home sickness and maybe some mental health challenges around that in the past we've worked with ABSTUDY to get family members to travel down. And depending on the circumstance, sometimes the family member will stay here. And then in the evenings, you know, we'll go out for dinner or go for a walk or have sort of family time in the evenings.

NARRATOR: Using ABSTUDY to bring the families to Townsville, gives students support and connection to community while keeping them in the classroom.

KATIE: What we do find is often if you send someone home and I don't think it's dissimilar to any of us, we all still like our own mum's cooking and our own bed. You can, you can lose people for a sort of extended period of time.

JODIE: We're always going to try and do what's in the best interest of our students. So if there's a situation where you think, oh, I'm not sure it meets the requirements, always give us a call and have a chat with us about it, or send it through as a request, as an email and just say, this is the situation, because there have been times where schools have been unsure about things and they've sent through a request and we've been able to make it work.

NARRATOR: For more information, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/abstudyproviders, call the National Business Gateway or email ABSTUDY travel.