

SAP supporting student success

When Caitlin and her mentor Lis Miller, a Sales Manager at SAP, first met back in 2015, they “just clicked”, Caitlin says.

At first, the AIEF Scholarship Student wasn’t too sure what to expect from a mentoring relationship, but she found Lis “so welcoming and open”.



Lis had heard about the AIEF Mentor Program at work and had found a previous online mentoring role an enjoyable experience.

“My children are adults now and I thought it would be nice to have a face-to-face mentoring relationship too,” Lis says. “I’m a huge believer in education as a pathway to wherever you want to go, and I wanted to provide that support to someone, help open their eyes to what’s possible.”

This year, Caitlin, who has been boarding at St Vincent’s College since Year 7, will complete Year 12.

“I intend to go to uni and study community welfare,” Caitlin says. “I’m hoping to become a youth worker to help young kids in tough situations and give them somebody to talk to.”

Caitlin says having someone to talk to close by has made pursuing her studies away from home much easier.

“I can talk to Lis about anything and not feel embarrassed, I know she’ll be understanding. It’s a bit like having a second mum, but also a friend.”

“We spend a lot of time discussing school, family and friends, different paths to achieving her goals,” Lis says.

“It’s been about providing more information to her, being there for advice.”

Caitlin knows she and Lis will stay in contact after she finishes school. “We text a lot, email, and even if we can’t meet face-to-face, a phone call is always possible.”

For Lis, seeing Caitlin and her peers graduate earlier this year was a real highlight.

“It’s been even better than I expected. Mentoring is about helping someone grow from a student to a young adult. I know Caitlin and I will stay in touch and she’ll be successful at whatever she wants to do.”