**Autism Hub - What is a senior pathway?**

**TRANSCRIPT**

- Well, we're really looking at the process, particularly between Years 10 to 12, hopefully starting at the end of Year 9, and we're looking at the skills that a student has, what their interests are and starting to track their success through the subjects they might do at school, and what kinds of things they might be interested in doing when they leave school.

- A senior pathway can mean different things to different people, whether you're a parent, a student, a teacher, a member of the school support staff, but the marker of all senior pathways, successful senior pathways, is a really quality collaborative partnership where every party is focussed on the student at the centre of that conversation and their journey through those final years of schooling into whatever happens next, whether that's a workplace, whether it's volunteering, whether it's a higher education sector, but really it's all about a structured conversation that places the student's needs and aspirations at the centre of the agenda.

- A senior pathway is the journey that a student progresses along whilst they're in, possibly Year 10, but definitely Year 11 and 12, and it's the choices that they make about their employment, education and independent living skills, and I use the word journey because it is a journey, it's just not a direct line of we're starting here and we're finishing at an end space, it's a journey because it starts at school and it continues post-school.

- For a senior pathway, you have to include the young person with autism in that discussion, along with the parents and the school. The strengths need to be the focus of that discussion, and we need to explore those strengths and those employment goals with them because sometimes the goals can be, you know, take a little bit longer to get to, and they may need to do some other things along the way, but they also really need to understand what their strengths are, so with that, we're putting them into a role to ensure success, we don't want to set them up for failure, because it's really hard to come back from that.