

Managing a Gifting Program for Your Mentee

1. Background



Almost immediately after meeting your mentee family, you will be required to source, coordinate and manage the gifting of various goods and services to them. Australians are generally very generous to newly arrived immigrants and want to share with others.

However, their excitement and exuberance to share what they have often needs to be managed quietly and respectfully so that, wherever possible, all parties' expectations are met. The following notes may help you and your group with this important aspect of your mentoring program.

2. Preparations



Explain to your mentees what "gifting" in Australia means, i.e. a stranger offering something for free to another stranger.

Not every request can be fulfilled. Not every donation might be a "perfect" match to a request. Each donation needs to be gracefully received and acknowledged by the recipient.

Finally, describe your role as a facilitator - seeking to source the item or service requested from community contacts and helping with its delivery.

3. Details and expectations are important



Make sure you have as much detail as possible as to the form and nature of the request. This will help in the successful sourcing of the gift from friends and acquaintances.

Do not promise a delivery timeline. Keep expectations grounded. Remind the mentee that finding "free stuff" may not always be possible.

If you are unable to source an item, pass on the info to the mentee ASAP. Discuss other options like checking second hand shops or community pages.

4. Acknowledgement and thanks

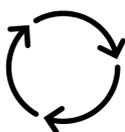


Guide your mentee towards the appropriate form and nature of the acknowledgement that might be expected by the donor.

If the donor is not present at the handover, then a photo of the gift with the recipient attached to an email or phone message is a thoughtful alternative.

If language and literary issues are in play, then preparing a template that can be used by the mentee to communicate their thanks is recommended.

5. Paying forward



Take time to explain the concept of "paying forward" good fortune or the generosity of strangers to yourself. Most donors are not seeking any form of "payback" to themselves.

However, if they know that the recipient mentee is actively looking for ways to help others in their community less well off than themselves, then the gifting process is even more worthwhile.