It is always a pleasure to be among our young Territorians – the people who will be responsible for building a future for the Northern Territory.

I’m impressed at the talent and the hard work of our young people.

It’s great to see the artworks on display here tonight – another testament to the creativity of our youngsters, and also the music provided by the Schools Wind Symphonic Band.

Tonight we celebrate the end of your school based education and the outstanding efforts and results you have achieved.

We are also rewarding our younger outstanding students who are about to move into secondary education – sometimes a daunting transition, but one I know you will take in your stride.
We are here today to congratulate you for your hard work, but we should also acknowledge those around you who have supported you through your school years.

We always talk about partnership in education, but it’s not just words. The partnership between parents and students, students and teachers, teachers and parents, are the ties that bind our community together.

I’m sure you students sometimes think the parents and teachers nag you unnecessarily, and that they don’t know what’s best for you, but they have always had your interests at heart, and tonight it is really paying off!

I am really encouraged by the level of parent involvement in school councils around the Territory, so keep up the good work, parents, and I know you must be very proud of your young people tonight.

Before I go I just want to leave the students with this thought. Many of you will be tempted to leave the Territory, and to study and work elsewhere, and to see more of the world.

This is great, and we encourage it. But come home to us.
We need your talent and energy and enthusiasm to build this place, and to fulfil our potential.

The Territory has a great future, and we want you to be part of it.

Bring your skills back here, but in the meantime, be proud of yourselves for all you have achieved.

We are certainly very proud of you. Congratulations to you all.

Thank you