



## MEDIA ALERT

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# INDEPENDENT REPORT IS A VOICE FOR KIDS IN CARE

Friday, March 1, 2013, CREATE Foundation will launch the latest and most significant national Report on out-of-home care in Australia. In this Federal Election year, CREATE Foundation is taking a proactive position with the release of a world class independent report on out-of-home care.

With the largest sample group to date, *CREATE's 2013 Report Card* documents the experiences and insights of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience and provides an overview of how states are responding to their needs.

The Report, titled "*Experiencing Out-of-Home Care in Australia: The View of Children and Young People, CREATE Report Card 2013*" focusses on seven life domains and provides a benchmark for the national out-of-home care standards. The life domains include: health; emotional and behavioural development; education; family and social relationships; identity; social presentation; and self-care skills.

Government recognises the child protection system is under strain and there are currently a number of State Inquiries and a Royal Commission underway. The seriousness of inquiries is only countered by their ability to affect much needed reform.

It has never been clearer that the current system is failing many children and young people, says CREATE Foundation Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed.

*"There needs to be a continued focus to ensure their safety and wellbeing through the provision of mechanisms for children and young people to have a say, independent of government, and enable meaningful participation in their care planning."*

The CREATE 2013 Report Card is the barometer for the wellbeing of Australian children and young people.

In Australia, over 37,000 children and young people live in care (i.e. foster, residential, kinship care) increasing by 7% every year. Through no fault of their own, children and young people may be placed in care due to neglect or abuse. Young people in care experience social isolation, stigma and chronic low self-esteem. They feel unconnected, disempowered and unable to do anything about it.

CREATE Foundation is the peak consumer body for children and young people in care. A not-for-profit organisation, CREATE connects and empowers children and young people in care and works to improve the care system through activities, programs, training and policy advice. Read more at [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au)

Media interviews can be arranged with CREATE Report Card author, Dr Joseph McDowall; CREATE Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, who has over two decades experience in the child protection sector; and young people with an out-of-home care experience.