



MEDIA RELEASE

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CREATE WELCOMES AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON VIC RESIDENTIAL CARE UNITS

CREATE Foundation Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, welcomes the newly released Auditor General's report on *Residential Care Services for Children*. CREATE is pleased that the Victorian Government is showing commitment to improving the lives of children and young people in care.

CREATE assisted the government with developing this report through consultations with children and young people with a resi-care experience (residential care units). The report is further strengthened by the expertise of Victorian key child protection sector experts who also assisted the government with this report.

Auditor General, Mr Doyle, states that "a society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members."

"The fact that this report has honed in on the greatest failure of the child protection system in being unable to meet the care needs of the most neglected or abused young people who have been placed in the residential care system is a sad indictment on our community," said Ms Reed.

"It is imperative that any child protection system is accountable, transparent and responsive to the needs of children and young people. We acknowledge that this system is under strain, and within it some resi-care facilities and workers don't provide the level of care which traumatised young people in care should expect."

"Yet, conversely, we also know that in some resi-care facilities, the staff do an outstanding job."

CREATE believes that a stable and robust child protection system needs to have and promote mechanisms - independent of government - to enable children and young people in care to have a say about decisions that affect their lives. CREATE looks forward to the government working with child protection organisations to implement the report's six recommendations.

CREATE Foundation is the peak body representing the voices of all children and young people in out-of-home care. CREATE Foundation relies on community support for its projects. Learn more at www.create.org.au

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