

CREATE Foundation National Office
Level 6, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Tel 02 9267 1999 or 1800 655 105
www.create.org.au



MEDIA RELEASE

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CREATE WELCOMES LEAVING CARE ALLOWANCE AND CALLS FOR INCREASE TO ASSIST MOVING TO INDEPENDENCE

CREATE Foundation CEO, Jacqui Reed, welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of changes to the Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) for young people leaving out-of-home care (i.e. foster, residential and kinship care).

As the only national consumer advocate for children and young people with a care experience transition to independence has been an area of concern for CREATE for a number of years.

"The government's decision to move the administration of TILA from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to Centrelink is a positive step," said Ms Reed.

With over 2,000 young people in formal care transitioning to independence this year Ms Reed acknowledged that the change in the availability of this allowance (TILA) to all young people leaving care was a vast improvement on the previous arrangement with the total amount of funding capped preventing some young people from receiving the allowance.

However, Ms Reed said the reforms did not go far enough. *"The amount of TILA available remains a one-off payment of \$1,500 and does not go far enough to set these young people up for independent living once they've transitioned from care."*

In many cases, these young people have been denied the same life opportunities as many others who have not been in care. To expect them to transition to independence with only \$1,500 to further their education or training, to buy furniture and whitegoods is unreasonable.

Ms Reed acknowledged that the Government has said it will monitor TILA to determine the suitability of the amount. *"CREATE will continue to call for an increase to TILA to a more realistic level"* added Ms Reed.

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

media enquiries Leigh White | 0431 932 122 | leigh@whitemarketing.com.au