

MEDIA RELEASE

12 September 2013

CREATE CEO CALLS ON TONY ABBOTT TO LEAD THE WAY IN PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Welcoming the Royal Commission's interest in the current regulations in place to prevent the sexual abuse of children and young people in out-of-home care, CREATE Chief Executive, Jacqui Reed is hopeful Australia's new Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, will commit to leading the way in protecting our nation's most vulnerable children and young people, as he would his own.

CREATE Foundation is the national consumer body representing the views of children and young people in out-of-home care (i.e. foster, kinship and residential care).

"CREATE supports the work of organisations like the Forgotten Australians and recognises the importance of the Royal Commission's commitment in hearing the devastating stories of institutional abuse - however it is equally important for Australians to understand that this is not an historical issue," said Ms Reed. *"Children not being safe remains current, right here and now."*

CREATE's 2013 Report Card, an independent survey of over 1,000 children in care found that 90% of children and young people surveyed indicated they felt safe and secure in their care placement. Although this is positive it brings into question the 10% of individuals who do not feel safe.

As the national independent peak consumer body for children and young people with a care experience, CREATE believes that a robust child protection system needs to hold and promote mechanisms to enable children and young people to have a say, independent of government, about their lived care experience.

Ms Reed said that Australia's *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (2009-2020)* clearly articulates the need for an independent national children's survey. Unfortunately, CREATE is concerned with the move away from an independent survey enabling children and young people to share their view of their care experience, to an introspective process where government reports on itself.

"Australia's new Prime Minister needs to step-up and commit to the established National Framework and address the increasing number of children and young people who are in care with a national response," Ms Reed said.

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

MEDIA ALERT: CREATE proudly announces its inaugural international child protection conference taking place in the nation's capital, Canberra, from 22-24 November, 2013, to be attended by children and young people with a care experience, carers, government and sector representatives and both local and international child protection experts.



www.strengthtostrength2013.com.au