



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# CREATE APPLAUDS NEWMAN GOV'S PROMISE OF DEDICATED NEW FOCUS & FUNDING FOR YOUNG CARE LEAVERS

CREATE Foundation applauds the Newman Government's recognition of the urgent need for new, dedicated funding for transition from care supports, says Lucas Moore, CREATE QLD Coordinator. Without appropriate supports over a third<sup>1</sup> of care leavers are at risk of becoming homeless, as indicated through CREATE's research.

QLD has the second highest care population<sup>3</sup> in the country and CREATE Foundation vigilantly advocates on their behalf, as part of a panel of other child protection organisations working towards improved transition to independence supports for care leavers.

Through no fault of their own, children and young people may be placed in care due to neglect or abuse. Over 39,000 children and young people live in care (i.e. foster, residential, kinship care) increasing by 9% every year.

They can experience multiple placements in different types of care and are often without the stable presence or influence of a positive, significant adult in their lives.

CREATE's research<sup>2</sup> indicates that around half need to leave their placement upon turning 18. Sadly, two thirds of respondents<sup>1</sup> said they did not have a leaving care plan.

With new dedicated services targeting supports for young care leavers, they are more likely to successfully transition to independence, by accessing stable, affordable and secure housing when they leave their placement, said Lucas Moore.

*"This new funding for transitioning is a welcome relief and sends a positive message to young people preparing to leave care that they matter and increased support will become available,"* continued Mr Moore.

*"It makes sense that during the time of transition to independence, providing adequate supports to young people leaving the care system will better equip them to set up their own home, maintain work or study and to feel supported and empowered."*

Some young people in care experience social isolation, stigma and chronic low self-esteem. They feel unconnected, disempowered and unable to do anything about it. The Newman Government has also promised increased family support funding and CREATE has been informed by children and young

people that they identify that in some cases additional support for their original families may have made a real difference and may have prevented them coming into care.

CREATE Foundation is the peak body representing the voices of all children and young people in out-of-home care (i.e. foster, kinship or residential care).

Learn more about CREATE at [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au)

**media enquiries** Leigh White | 0431 932 122 | [leigh@whitemarketing.com.au](mailto:leigh@whitemarketing.com.au)

*\*Data source: McDowall, J. J. (2009) "Transitioning from care - Tracking progress,(CREATE Report Card 2009)" Sydney: CREATE Foundation.*

*\*\*Data Source: McDowall, J. J. (2013) "Experiencing Out-of-Home Care in Australia: The View of Children and Young People, (CREATE Report Card 2013)" Sydney: CREATE Foundation.*

*\*\*\* As at 31/12/13 there were 8556 Queensland children and young people in out-of-home care (from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website - <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/about-us/our-performance/summary-statistics>).*