

MEDIA RELEASE

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creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

CREATE APPLAUDS WEATHERILL WORDS

THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO BE SAFE TRUMPS PRIVACY

CREATE Foundation applauds the common sense approach expressed in Premier Weatherill's recent statement to ABC news, "We believe that the right of a child to be safe trumps the right of a child's privacy."

Over 43,000 Australian children and young people live in out-of-home care (i.e. foster, residential, kinship care) after they are removed from their families. CREATE is the peak consumer body representing the voices of children and young people in out-of-home care. For over a decade, CREATE has encountered obstacles in being able to contact those children and young people to hear their views. This is due largely to the fear and uncertainty departments have regarding the sharing of information.

"Anything the Premier and Child Protection Reform Minister can do to make appropriate information sharing possible is very promising," said Ms Jacqui Reed, Chief Executive, CREATE.

"What we've encountered is that Ministers representing Departments often support the releasing of contact information for children to recognised agencies such as CREATE, but that view does not flow down through the organisation's culture to reach staff. So staff, feeling they need to be 'protective,' take the approach that they must not ever release data, even when such action may not lead to children being safe, or when it would enable those from out-of-home care to share their experiences of growing up in the system."

CREATE believes that internal protocols and procedures must support keeping children safe, including making the system child-focused. To achieve the most satisfactory outcome possible for young people, representatives of child-centric agencies should be included in developing a coordinated focus on sharing information appropriately.

CREATE welcomes this South Australian initiative for more efficient sharing of data across departments, authorities, and agencies throughout the nation to help make the system safe and supportive for all children and young people in care.

For more information on CREATE, please visit our website at www.create.org.au

Alert: The findings from CREATE Foundation's new (2016) research will be revealed on **Thursday, 8th September, 2016**. View CREATE's past reports here: <http://create.org.au/publications/create-research-reports/>

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