

## MEDIA ALERT

Thursday 1 September 2016

creating a better life  
for children and young  
people in care

# 7 DAYS UNTIL RELEASE OF NEW INDEPENDENT REPORT ON LEAVING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Thursday, 8th September, 2016, will see the launch of findings from Dr Joseph McDowalls' new research titled *"Go Your Own Way resource for young people transitioning from care in Australia: An evaluation."*

Since 2006, CREATE Foundation has informed government and the child protection sector through independent consultations and research with children and young people with an out-of-home care experience (i.e., foster, kinship, or residential care).

Learning about the experiences of children and young people growing up in care is vital as a means of informing the sector about what is working, and where improvements are most urgent. CREATE Foundation regularly consults with young people and through its project in 2013 obtained a detailed picture of the challenges experienced by children and young people growing up in the care system. Examples of key insights were:

- 36% of children and young people are split from their brothers and sisters in care
- 31% attend 3 or more primary schools and have greater rates of suspension
- 35% have 5 or more caseworkers during their time in care
- 67% are not aware of any official leaving care plan

Transitioning to Independence, or leaving care, is viewed as the most critical time in a young person's life. As part of the *National Framework for Protecting Australian Children 2009–2020*, CREATE Foundation developed a leaving care package, referred to as the *"Go Your Own Way Kit,"* which was prepared for all young people about to age out of the care system.

The kit is filled with information and resources to assist the planning process and provide young people, caseworkers, and carers with the information they need to plan for a successful transition. CREATE's new research (2016) was designed as an evaluation of the *Go Your Own Way Kit*. Did it aid leaving care planning, and was it useful for those transitioning to adulthood and independence?

Next Thursday's event in Melbourne will be attended by government dignitaries, child protection sector representatives, workers, and children and young people with an out-of-home care experience, hosted by the CREATE team.

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View CREATE's past reports here: <http://create.org.au/publications/create-research-reports/>  
The GYOW Kit is available via this [Link to GYOW Workbook](#)

Data source: McDowall, J. J. (2013). *Experiencing out-of-home care in Australia: The views of children and young people (CREATE Report Card 2013)*. Sydney: CREATE Foundation.

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