



MEDIA RELEASE

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CREATE CEO CALLS FOR NEWMAN TO SEEK CONSULTATION PRIOR TO ANY PLAN TO BOARD TROUBLED TEENS

In response to news reports on the Newman Government's plans to send troubled teens to boarding schools (*"troubled teens removed from their families could join paying pupils in the state's boarding schools..."* by Michael Madigan, *Courier Mail*, 11/11/13) CREATE Foundation Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, suggests this is a knee-jerk reaction to populist thought, rather than it being derived from expert advice or informed by evidence.

Over 38,000 children and young people live in care in Australia today. Through no fault of their own, children and young people may be placed in care due to neglect or abuse.

Young people in care experience social isolation, stigma and chronic low self-esteem. They feel unconnected, disempowered and unable to do anything about it. CREATE Foundation is the peak voice for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Ms Reed added she would be deeply concerned if the Queensland Government is seriously considering boarding schools as an education option for traumatised young people.

"Many young people are in care due to abuse and neglect and it is unfair to assume that Queensland's boarding schools are adequately prepared and equipped to deal with the unique and complicated issues that might arise," she said.

Ms Reed called on the Queensland Government to take time to consult with young people who live in out-of-home care and with Queensland's child protection sector experts.

Learn more about CREATE Foundation at www.create.org.au