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**NATIONAL CHILD
PROTECTION WEEK**
7TH - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2014
NAPCAN.ORG.AU
PLAY YOUR PART
create
FOUNDATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2014

National Child Protection Week (NCPW) is an annual awareness campaign reaching out to the community to keep children and young people safe. During NCPW 2014, CREATE Foundation plays an active role at special events and activities in each state and territory.

It is vital that children and young people growing up in out-of-home care are aware that their opinion matters! They have a right to speak up as a means of protecting themselves or others and to influence others at home in a positive way.

Taking place 7-13 September, the NCPW campaign messages are “Protecting Children is Everyone’s Business”, “Play Your Part”, and that “communities matter” to children and asks you to play your part in your community by being someone who listens to children.

This year’s NCPW campaign promotes that everybody needs to listen to what children have to say to make their communities safer places. It is about being a positive role model, about listening and looking out for others, offering support and encouragement, and if you are worried about someone else who is unhappy, scared or unsafe, ask them to talk to an adult they trust.

CREATE believe that NCPW week is about remembering to consider others in our community, understanding that we don’t always know what difficulties others may be facing and to think about how we can play our part in protecting children from harm or neglect, says Ms Jacqui Reed, CREATE’s Chief Executive.

“During this time, CREATE holds special events for families, takes part in award ceremonies to give recognition to outstanding efforts in the area of child protection, and also hold discussions for young people to have input on topics that affect their lives and their future,” said Ms Reed.

CREATE Foundation will have events and activities in each state and territory during NCPW. For more information contact CREATE by calling 1800 655 105.

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

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.

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

National Child Protection Week (NCPW) aims to raise public awareness of child abuse and neglect, and its impacts so that the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people can be improved. This annual awareness campaign is run by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) Keep an eye on www.napcan.org.au for more information and ideas about protecting children and young people in Australia.

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Key Statistics

CREATE Foundation regularly consults with young people and through this consultation in 2009 revealed a truthful yet somewhat bleak portrait of the reduced life outcomes experienced by children and young people growing up in the care system. The [Report Card](#) revealed that if you've been in out of home care, you are more likely to be **undereducated, unemployed, to earn less, become a parent at a younger age**, be involved in the **juvenile justice** system, become **homeless**, be dependent on **social assistance**, have **mental health** issues, **attempt suicide**, and be at a **higher risk of substance abuse**².

- 64% do not have a leaving care plan (leaving care plans are a strategy for life after being in the state care system)
- 35% are homeless in the first year of leaving care
- 46% of boys are involved in the juvenile justice system
- 35% completed Year 12 (compared to that of the general population)
- 29% are unemployed (compared to the national average which is 9.7%)
- 28% were already parents themselves

Data source: McDowall, J.J. (2009). CREATE Report Card 2009 – Transitioning from Care: Tracking Progress. Sydney: CREATE Foundation. Click [here](#) to visit the website displaying the *CREATE Report Card 2009 – Transitioning from Care: Tracking Progress*.