



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 September 2014

CREATE'S VOICE REACHING FURTHER AFIELD

National peak body, CREATE Foundation, represents the voice of children and young people in out-of-home care. CREATE is on the move with several important and extraordinary invitations to share which CREATE and Jacqui Reed feel privileged to receive, all of which take place in the lead up to National Child Protection Week.

Ms Reed is one of a privileged select number of private survivor advocacy and support groups invited to attend tomorrow's (4/9) Royal Commission Private Roundtable (Redress and Civil Litigation) in Sydney.

Today, Ms Reed is attending the official launch of National Child Protection Week hosted by The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency The Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove at Admiralty House, Kirribilli.

This evening, Ms Reed is attending 2014 National Children's Law Awards as CREATE QLD Coordinator Lucas Moore and CREATE Foundation have been selected as finalists for an award at the 2014 National Children's Awards (Awards) in the category of The National Award for Outstanding Contribution to Policy or Law Reform. This award recognises outstanding dedication and commitment in policy or law reform in order to advance the legal rights and interests of children and young people within Australia.

A 2014 Churchill Fellowship was recently awarded to Ms Reed with the purpose of studying the improvement of life outcomes for young people transitioning from statutory care to independence – Netherlands, France, UK.

About out-of-home care: 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 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 abuse².

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

media enquiries Leigh White | 0431 932 122 | leigh@whitemarketing.com.au

background information

- 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.