

CREATE Foundation National Office
Level 6, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Tel 02 9267 1999 or 1800 655 105
www.create.org.au



MEDIA RELEASE

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QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS CHILD PLACEMENT PRINCIPLE

CREATE Foundation CEO, Ms Jacqui Reed, supports the *Queensland Commission for Children's* call for the Queensland Government to immediately prioritise improving *Cultural Support Planning* for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care.

CREATE Foundation is the national peak body advocating for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Ms Reed said that the National Framework for Protecting Australian's Children (2009-2020), signed by all Australian federal and state governments clearly highlights the importance of *Closing the Gap* through supports in areas of culture and connectedness. Developing a meaningful cultural support plan for each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child or young person who is in out-of-home-care is a priority of the National Framework.

Ms Reed said that *CREATE Foundation's 2013 Report Card Experiencing Out-of-Home Care in Australia: The Views of Children and Young People*, found that of the over 300 Indigenous children and young people surveyed only 10% knew about their cultural support plan.

Indigenous children are highly over-represented in the care system across Australia and in Queensland. "*In a time of upheaval and uncertainty, it is very important for Indigenous children in out-of-home care to remain connected to family, community and culture*" said Ms Reed.

"Building partnerships with Indigenous communities and service providers alongside a Cultural Support Plan which a child has been involved in developing, will improve their outcomes."

Ms Reed called on the Queensland Government to commit to ensuring that Queensland's child safety officers are given the necessary training required to develop a meaningful understanding of the importance of cultural support plans for the over 3,000 Indigenous children and young people in care.

Learn more at www.create.org.au

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