

MEDIA RELEASE

6 September 2017

creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT, SAFETY IS MORE SO

RESPONSE TO MEDIA COVERAGE OF PRIVACY ISSUES RELATING TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

CREATE Foundation is Australia's peak consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience (including kinship care, foster care and residential care).

The NSW Department of Family and Community Services is tabling an amendment to legislation that prohibits the naming of children and young people in care. CREATE recognises the need for privacy, but not at the expense of the safety of children and young people in the care sector.

CREATE Foundation, together with other key agencies are calling for a collaborative approach to seeking legislative changes focussing on Government accountability whilst protecting vulnerable of children and young people in out-of-home care.

"Children and young people need a robust and transparent child protection system, but not at the expense of the child and their family", Jacqui Reed, CEO CREATE Foundation said.

Children and young people in care already face huge stigma in their day-to-day lives, this can only be made worse by naming them in media.

"Surely we can find a balance between keeping FACS accountable, while also ensuring we protect the rights of vulnerable children and young people in out-of-home care" said Jacqui Reed.

There are currently more than 46,000 children and young people in care across Australia. For more information on CREATE, please visit our website at www.create.org.au

ENDS

Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:

- 46,488 children were in out-of-home care across Australia at 30 June, 2016
- 35% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care
- 46% of boys with care experience have had contact with the juvenile justice system
- 29% of young people who have experienced out-of-home are unemployed
- 36% of children and young people are split from their brothers and sisters in care
- 35% of young people in care have 5 or more caseworkers during their time in care
- 67% of young people in care are not aware of leaving care plans

For further comment from CREATE's CEO Jacqui Reed and/or a young person with care experience please call Andrea Doney 0402050418 and andrea@admarcoms.com.au

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