

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 15 November 2016

creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

WANTED - COMMONWEALTH LEADERSHIP TO OVERSIGHT OF CHILD PROTECTION

Last night's ABC Four Corners program shows the shocking reality many children and young people living in residential facilities face every day in a system that is supposed to protect and care for them.

"Child protection is everybody's business," said Ms Jacqui Reed, CREATE's Chief Executive *"The public must demand a better system to protect and care for vulnerable children and young people."*

CREATE's independent research has consistently shown that residential care is not working for young people and that children and young people prefer to live in home-based care. This form of care should be used as a last resort and if it is used, it should have a therapeutic focus and employ skilled and supported staff to meet the needs of the vulnerable children and young people who live there.

There is an unprecedented need for the Commonwealth government to commit to strong leadership in child protection.

"Despite all the Inquiries and Royal Commissions, the abuse and poor outcomes continues," said Ms Reed. *"We urge Minister Porter to require all agencies to be monitored by an independent authority like the United Kingdom uses."*

This form of oversight ensures that vulnerable children and young people in care receive the appropriate level of care (which is a basic entitlement) and oversight also holds agencies and jurisdictions accountable.

CREATE Foundation is committed to improving the life outcomes for children and young people with a care experience. Read CREATE's position paper on Residential Care via this link: <http://create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/CREATE-Position-Paper-Residential-Care-CREATE-Foundation-2015.pdf>

Over 43,000 Australian children and young people live in out-of-home care (i.e. foster, residential, kinship care) after they are removed from their families. CREATE Foundation is the peak consumer body representing the voices of children and young people in out-of-home care, providing programs and services to create a better life for children and young people in care.

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