

MEDIA STATEMENT

14 June 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT ON FINDINGS OF TUNE REPORT LETS TUNE IN TO A SYSTEM CURRENTLY FAILING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

[[Brief Background information](#)] The Tune report is a comprehensive investigation of the NSW out-of-home care system. The report was delivered to the NSW cabinet in 2016, but has been withheld from the public for two years.

Former senior public servant David Tune conducted the report, and states that the troubled child protection system does not improve the long-term outcomes for children, especially Aboriginal children.

The Tune Report was released this week, after it was ordered by the Upper House of the NSW Parliament. The report which is being called 'damning' shows a system in trouble and there are calls for the resignation of the Families Minister Pru Goward after she failed to release the report.

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CREATE Foundation is the national 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).

CREATE Foundation's CEO Jacqui Reed said today that "The Tune report highlights what we have known for some time – that the NSW out-of-home care system is operating in an ad-hoc and often siloed manner. The system often appears reactive and not proactive.

CREATE Foundation consults daily with young people with lived experience of life in the care sector, and has conducted formal and informal research into the sector for a period of 20 years. "We can cite countless cases where the out of home care system has lacked real and meaningful investment in, and true commitment to hearing the voices of children and young people," said Jacqui Reed.

CREATE supports an out-of-home care system that is based on a non-crisis driven approach and is calling on the government to show much greater commitment to investing in learnings from the past, and better supporting children and young people to voice their opinions and shape the system for the future to better meet their needs.

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Jacqui Reed said “Children and young people have told us that the government needs to better support and listen to young people – it’s pretty simple, the government needs to listen to what young people are saying and actively involve them in decisions about their life, and all elements of the current system re-design.”

CREATE acknowledges FACS has committed money to reforming the out-of-home care system and that this is progressing. The challenge for FACS is placing the voices of children and young people firmly at the core of these reforms which CREATE as the peak consumer body says is not currently happening. The young people themselves are the ones best able to advise on what they need in their child protection system.

For more information on CREATE, please visit our website at www.create.org.au

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Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:

- 47,931 children were in out-of-home care across Australia at 30 June, 2017
- 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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