Hello! Hope you have been staying cool over the hot summer.

We loved seeing so many of you at our different Christmas events. We were lucky enough to have four parties. We joined ACTTogether at Inflatable World with a photo-booth; enjoyed a Christmas dinner at the YMCA Bush Capital Lodge; had an end of year Christmas Burns Club lunch for our Young Consultants- and an afternoon of games and a visit by Alex and Snickers from Paws Pet Therapy with our Music Group.

As the holidays come to an end we are sending positive thoughts to those of you returning to school or starting something new. Remember - lots of people are cheering for you!

We enjoyed a hot morning in January cooling down at the Dickson Pool. This is the 3rd year we have partnered with ACTTogether for this event. These Connection events are great opportunities for people to get out, catch up with friends and siblings, and to make new friendships. We got to touch base with some young people whom we had not seen for ages, though some of our chats were bite-sized in between people running out of the pool, grabbing something to eat, and then heading to the water.

We also need to say a big THANK YOU to our friends Winston, Brendan and Finn from Northside Yengage who slaved over the BBQs to cook 250 sausages. Plenty of fun and food for everyone!
G’day I’m Jess from Belconnen Youth Centre! My team and I offer all sorts of support to young people aged 12-25 living in, or accessing the Belconnen area. My job is great! Not only do I get to do a heap of fun activities with young people, I also get to help them achieve their goals through case work, employment support or practical help and advice.

Three things I love are my mum, my dog ‘Baloo’ and the wonderful team of Youth Workers I get to work with every day.

I believe everybody is worthy of respect and kindness, and with those two things we can achieve anything!

In November 2018, Young Consultants Tilly and Tahllea spoke at the ACT Council of Social Services forum about the Rights of Children & Young people. It was fantastic to see the support provided by Tilly to Tahllea (this was Tahllea’s first big speaking event with us) and the way they answered questions put to them with insight and passion. Tilly and Tahllea spoke about the importance of respecting and really listening to children and young people in different ways, believing them, and of the stigma around being in out of home care. Workers at the forum thanked the girls for their powerful words.

You might have seen some emails about the Hands Across Canberra grant we received to run 2 CREATE Your Future living skills workshops for people 15 to 25yrs.

After talking with young people and workers, we decided to run our ‘You and Your Peeps’ (relationships) workshop in the Jan school holidays. 14 young people attended, and we were lucky to have our Young Consultant, Tilly, and sector-partner from Anglicare Youth and Family Services, Tianna, help run the workshop.

Next up will be our ‘Rolla Casholla’ (managing your money) workshop. This may be scheduled in the April school holidays, however we are open to other dates. Call us if you are interested or for more info.

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CREATE would not be CREATE without Young Consultants (YCs). We see you as experts in your lives and with so much to contribute. YCs do so much: speaking with decision-makers and workers, running Youth Advisory Group (YAGs) discussions with us, supporting new CREATE members, and planning and helping at events. Some of our YCs attended the Youth Roundtable in November and it was inspiring to hear them talk with such honesty and clarity. Young people aged 14+ can become YCs with CREATE by taking part in our Speak UP workshops. 3 young people (you know who you are!) completed our Speak UP training in January. It was a real pleasure for Nicky and I to spend the time with these young people over the 3 days - we learnt a lot as well as had a lot of fun!

“KEEP HAVING MORE OF THESE DISCUSSIONS... MORE CREATE EVENTS.”
MALE, 17 YEARS OLD

MORE AMAZING ARTWORK, PIC BY DEAN, 16 YEARS OLD.

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If you would like to register for any of our events, find out the missing details or get information about CREATE, head to our ACT page at: www.create.org.au or contact us on 1800 655 105 or 0439 764 163 or susan.pellegrino@create.org.au