In January, Danni and Heather went along to the PUTALINA Festival; a celebration of Aboriginal music, culture and art. The festival is located in Southern Tasmania in a beautiful bush setting that holds great significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People. The CREATE team did a very popular weaving activity using sticks and coloured wool. There was also music, face painting and a free lunch! Such a beautiful event that we encourage all young people to attend next year!

Hi Everyone!!!

We are so glad that you are able to connect with us through our magazine and share in all the activities and programs that we have been doing. The past 3 months have been super busy for the CREATE team, with us traveling around the State for all sorts of programs and events. Some of the highlights include, our amazing Statewide Christmas Party in Launceston, where the CREATE Team had a great time with young people, their carers and family.

In January we were up in Ulverstone for the Waterslide Party again, and what a wonderful warm day it was on the waterslide connecting with everyone. Also in Jan we held a Speak Up Camp, where over 10 young people attended learning skills about speaking up about stuff and making a difference, so many friendships were formed, it was great.

Then in early Feb, about 10 young people contributed at the Round Table, where people who make decisions at the Department came to listen to what young people had to say about the system and how to help improve things. So all in all, a really cool couple of months.
Hi I’m Derek! I was in care for 17 years.

and had three foster placements. The first placement was for 12 years, the second for 6 months and the third for 6 years. I have moved around a lot! But when my case worker told me about Club CREATE I was like ‘Heck yeah, finally something to do!’ I completed Speak UP and have been a young consultant for almost 6 years. As a young consultant I have helped at events including the Christmas Party and also foster carers training. I have enjoyed every moment and all the activities!

CREATE would like to thank Derek for being such an awesome reliable Young Consultant! We love having you as part of our team Derek!

If you would like to be a Young Consultant, contact us about our Speak Up Program!
INTRODUCING SONYA
OUR CHILD ADVOCATE
IN TASMANIA

I’m Sonya, the Child Advocate for children and young people in Out-of-Home Care. I love board games, the bush, beach and singing loudly in my car... and my job, which is to make sure you know what your rights are being in care, and that adults support your rights.

An Advocate is someone who speaks up for someone else, and I can do that for you, sharing your stories or worries with people who need to know. If you prefer, I can keep your information confidential, unless you are unsafe.

I can help you understand how the Child Safety Service works, and I would love to hear your ideas on how it can work better.

It’s important that your worker is listening to you and involving you in the decisions about your life.

If you don’t think this happening or have tried and don’t feel heard, then you can contact me directly. Phone/text 0419 970 181 or call 1800 549 725 child.advocate@communities.tas.gov.au

YOUNG PEOPLE SAID IT, AND THINGS ARE HAPPENING

• Over 150 Tasmanian young people completed our National Survey. The findings have been put into a report called Out-of-Home Care in Australia: Children and Young People’s Views After 5 Years of National Standards. We’re super keen to find out the results and use the findings to influence change. The report (including a young person version) will be launched on March 20th so keep an eye out for when it is being released, so you can help spread the word, to carers, workers, teachers and mentors!

• Last year CREATE assisted the Department of Communities with the Out of Home Care Foundations project. This project looked at ways to improve the care system. 30 young people’s ideas, experience and insights have helped contribute to important decisions which are being made about the care system in the future. They created a ‘Fact Sheet: The Voices of Children and Young People in Out of Home Care’ for you to check out. This shows the clear expectations of what a good out of home care system looks like based on young people’s voices. Yay!

• We have been getting feedback in youth advisory groups for ages that young people want to be involved in discussions about their lives, and they want to be involved in case and care plans. We followed this up by doing a consultation with 30 young people state-wide around participating in decision making. From this consultation report based on the young people’s voices, CREATE presented the report to around 50 big bosses and case workers with key ideas on how to improve things in this area. A working group was formed with big bosses, to look at how they can make case and care plans more interactive and digital so young people can be more involved in them.
THE TEAM

APRIL CAMP!

Have you done Speak Up Level 1?
Would you like to come on Camp in April?
We have an awesome camp coming up for young people who are yet to complete Speak Up Level 2 & 3.
If you would like more information, give us a call today!

EVENTS CALENDAR COMING SOON!

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Get In Contact

If you would like to register for any of our events, find out the missing details or get information about CREATE head to our TAS page on www.create.org.au or contact us at 03 6281 9243 or tas@create.org.au

www.create.org.au
Transitioning from care?
www.createyourfuture.org.au