



CREATE FOUNDATION: A HISTORY 20 YEARS

of standing up for children and young people in care



"CREATE's very existence is a testament to the courage and resilience of children and young people in care across Australia. This amazing milestone offers us the chance to recognise all those who have made us who we are today and celebrate the power and courage of children and young people with a care experience who have stood up and used their voice to CREATE a better care system."

Jacqui Reed, CEO, CREATE Foundation



20 Years of CREATE

CREATE Foundation is proud to be the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with a care experience throughout Australia. This year we celebrate our 20 year anniversary. CREATE Foundation Limited started in 1999. However, our journey can actually be traced back to the early 90's, when CREATE's founder Jan Owen set up the Australian Association of Young People In Care (AAYPIC).

This booklet captures some of the defining moments of the incredible journey CREATE has undertaken from the development of AAYPIC throughout the nineties, the evolution to CREATE at the turn of the millennium and the organisation's continued growth and influence up until the present.

There are so many amazing young people, staff (and young people who became staff!) and supporters who have shown courage and commitment to help CREATE to positively affect the lives of children and young people in care and improve the care system; it is unlikely this booklet will do justice in recognising everyone's contribution. To everyone reading this who has supported CREATE or AAYPIC along the way, thank you.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Happy Reading!

CREATE Foundation

The Early Years

CREATE Foundation was founded in 1999, yet the movement to provide young people a voice in the care system began much earlier.

Inspired by the Who Cares? Project in the UK about giving young people in care a voice, the then Department of Community Services (NSW) and the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) sponsored three annual camps for young people in out-of-home care in 1979, 1980 and 1981. Called Project Speak Out, these gatherings gave participants an opportunity to speak collectively about their experiences.

In May of 1993, the NSW State Network of Young People in Care (SNYPIC) received funding as an outcome of the Usher Report into Reform of Child Welfare in NSW. The group, auspiced by the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA), was provided with a small amount of government funding in an attempt to address the issue that children and young people in care were vulnerable to having their rights and wishes ignored, both individually and collectively.

In August 1993, Jan Owen, who had herself been adopted, set up the Australian Association of Young People in Care (AAYPIC) with a group of young people who either were in, or had been in, state care. AAYPIC spread quickly across Australia, and a national office was established out of a garage at Jan Owen's house in Brisbane.

Over the next five years, AAYPIC achieved many great accomplishments, including;

- Creating the national AAYPIC magazine, *Illusion Free Zone*, the first edition of which contained Australia's first ever national survey of the views of children and young people in care

- Holding the first national gathering of young people in care, where over 140 delegates attended to discuss the mission, goals, aims and proposed structure of the national and state bodies of AAYPIC. It was here that conference delegates developed the first ever Bill of Rights for children in care in Australia

- Launching the Young Consultants Program to train young people and staff in group work, team building, media presentation and facilitation skills

- Being awarded the prestigious Australian Human Rights Award, for innovation and excellence in promoting the rights and participation of children and young people

- AAYPIC's first QLD Coordinator, Liz Meadows, being awarded the National Young Australian of the Year Award for Community Service

In September 1993, David Hill, the then managing director of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, became CREATE's first National Patron. At the age of 12, David travelled to Australia as a child migrant, where he endured hardship and abuse at Fairbridge Farm school in New South Wales.

The biggest change came in 1999 when AAYPIC networks met in Brisbane to form one combined non-profit organisation and called it CREATE – not an acronym, but an action word developed by children and young people.

"Most children come into care under the age of eight and no matter where they are living, they often feel rejected, abandoned, that being in care is their fault and they are alone. They are not alone."

David Hill, CREATE's First Patron



"I will never forget that sense of what it means to have that shared lived experience and the sense of empowerment that it gives. We really learnt that you can change people's individual situations, there is a great power in doing so... but in the end, you have to change the system that propagates that result."

Jan Owen AM, CREATE Founder



"Reflecting on the last 20 years, CREATE has a lot to be proud of. We've seen governments finally listening to children and young people and engaging them in Royal Commissions and countless inquiries and importantly, making recommendations based on what young people have to say. There are more checks and balances and notably we now see a National Children's Commissioner in place, and a National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. CREATE has been influential as an independent body representing the voices of children and young people through evidence based research and advocacy. We build on our achievements of the past to continue to promote a child protection and out of home care system that is truly child centred."

Richard Hill, CREATE Chairman

The history of



CREATE rolls out and pilots a range of programs, including:

- CREATE Magazine – a magazine distributed to children and young people in care and CREATE supporters around Australia.
- clubCREATE – an exclusive club for children and young people with a care experience around Australia.
- CREATE Live! – a community development program in regional areas.
- Mission:be – a three month program for young people in care aged 14-18 to immerse themselves in a culture of self-discovery and learning.
- CREATE Consulting – a program aimed at ensuring consumer participation at all levels of the care and protection systems.

CREATE Foundation was formed in collaboration with children and young people.

After over a decade driving AAYPIC and CREATE, Jan Owen steps down as the National Director.



1999

2000

2001

2002

CREATE develops a range of programs and services in the areas – CONNECT, EMPOWER, CHANGE, based on what young people agreed were the key issues that needed to be tackled to achieve meaningful participation in the care system by children and young people.



CREATE National Director Jan Owen, receives an Order of Australia for her work with children and young people over a 20 year period.



CREATE launches its Report Card, a report mimicking the concept of a school report card that grades relevant state governments on how well they look after those in out-of-home care.

"My arrival coincided with this enormous sense of passion from a national network that was disparate and spread across the country – one of my jobs was bringing people together under a common goal – all the stuff that's not about the passion but about the effectiveness – bringing some sophistication to the messaging but also the internal processes of the organisation."

Former CREATE CEO Rory Jeffes



CREATE, through the Tasmanian Face to Face committee, launches the publication and associated DVD 'I am not a Jigsaw Puzzle' which documents the stories of 11 young people and their experiences of being in care.

AMP Capital and the AMP Foundation begin a strong partnership with CREATE, which continues today.



2003

In September CREATE releases its third annual Report Card; this report focuses on the educational experiences of children and young people in care around Australia.



In early 2003 Rory Jeffes is appointed as CREATE's new CEO.



2004

CREATE releases "Do No Harm" – a ground breaking report about how Australia can better protect children and young people in out of home care from further abuse and neglect once they are in the system.

"Under the current approach (to abuse and neglect in care) the questioning underpinning the process are "who did what to whom?" and "who is to blame?" A duty of care framework would ask 'what happened?', "what factors contributed to that happening? And "how can we learn from what happened and prevent it from occurring again?"

CREATE, 2004

Ric Hubbard joins
CREATE as CEO.



"Help with your health needs to be offered when you leave care. I have to do everything and I don't know what's out there and where I need to go. I also don't like having to ask for help all the time. Before you leave care you need this information."

Participant, CREATE Health Report Card

'Outta Here' Kits are launched in Tasmania. The kits, which were CREATE designed in consultation young people, provide information about transitioning from care.



2005

The Be. Heard Project is launched in Queensland, the focus of the project is to consult with children and young people about the care they receive. The Be.Heard Report results form part of internal performance reviews of Departmental services to children in care.



CREATE conducts Report Card research into the health of children and young people in care, surveying 281 children and young people. The resulting report highlights that whilst children and young people in care generally reported good health, much more attention needed to be devoted to the areas of mental and dental health.



2006

CREATE Chairman John Cloney moves on from the role, leaving the organisation in a strong position. CEO of Lumley General Insurance David Matchman replaces John and continues the insurance industry's critical support of CREATE's work.

Corporate partnerships blossom, including a workplace learning program with Atari Australia in NSW and a connection with Leaseplan which over the years provides a fun day out for thousands of children and carers at AFL and A-League sporting events.



Ric Hubbard
departs as
CREATE CEO
replaced by
Jacqui Reed.

2007

CREATE joins the National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Well-being of Australia's Children to advocate for a national approach to supporting children and young people in out-of-home care.

2008

The CREATE Your Future program is launched to assist young people to develop life skills to aid their transition from care.

CYF



CREATE is heavily involved with the Federal Government's Expert Panel on Out-of-Home Care, carrying out a national consultation with young people on the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children* (2009-2019).

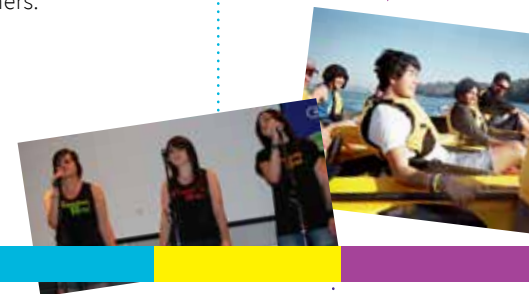
CREATE develops Youth Advisory Groups across Australia to give young people a regular opportunity to have their say; at the end of 2008 this culminates in CREATE Young Consultants across the country nominating for the CREATE National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC).

2009

clubCREATE members across Australia start to receive personalised birthday cards, decorated by volunteers from CREATE's corporate partners.



CREATE assists to establish the National Out-of-Home Care Standards and contributes to the development of the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.



"Young people should be assisted when leaving care to transition effectively to stable accommodation and to receive further education and/or training and/or employment, so as to maximise their potential for independent living."

Woods Inquiry into Child Protection Services

CREATE launches its first Transition from Care Report Card authored by Dr Joseph McDowall, with 164 responses nationally. CREATE used this emerging data in our advocacy at inquiries such as the Woods Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW, which recommended increased resourcing for transition from care services.



CREATE hosts the inaugural National Youth Advisory Council Summit in Sydney, with presentations made by delegates to Parliamentary Secretary Bill Shorten. The Summit is also joined by a group of young people in care from UK creative arts group, Freedom Road, who are still linked with CREATE via the global care network.

CREATE releases the *CREATE Report Card 2009: Tracking Progress* authored by Dr Joseph McDowall, a follow up report from the 2008 report on Transitioning from Care.



NYAC delegates and other Young Consultants from around the country meet in Brisbane to further develop CREATE's proposals to improve the transition from care system in Australia; this feedback forms part of the influential CREATE report *What's the Answer: Young People's Solutions to improving transitioning from independent to out-of-home care*.



CEO Jacqui and Young Consultant Krystal present at the United Nations in Geneva as part of Australia's Response to the government's Report measuring effectiveness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



CREATE launches *Transitioning from Care: An Evaluation of CREATE's What's the Plan?* campaign – by this stage CREATE and Dr McDowall's research into Transition from Care was very well known in the out-of-home care sector and the report received mass media attention in all states and territories, helping to raise general community awareness about the challenges faced by young people leaving the formal care system.

CREATE Your Future Grants Scheme for young people is launched, distributing \$50k worth of grants to young people in its first year.

"The CREATE Your Future Grant has really changed my life. I now have access to a computer and recording equipment so that I can pursue my hobbies and gain valuable experience."

Clayton, 16

2010



In Victoria CREATE launches innovative new tools to engage children and young people and the sector in the Charter for Children in Out-of-Home Care, this includes the 'Planet Right' animation for younger children.

CREATE is successful in securing support from the Origin Foundation, ANSVAR Insurance and the Bennelong Foundation, enabling it to offer the CREATE Your Future program in every state and territory.



2011



Long term supporters of CREATE provided \$50K for CREATE staff and Young Consultants to attend the ISPCAN conference in Finland, and the UN in Geneva. Young Consultants Gerry and Amanda presented at the ISPCAN conference in Finland to a huge audience and talked about the importance of participation.



2012

Across the year the CREATE Your Future program grew from strength to strength with 841 young people participating the program primarily funded by the Commonwealth through the Homelessness Branch and by the Origin Foundation.

As part of its 2011-2014 Strategic Plan CREATE opens two new offices in Newcastle and Alice Springs. The NT Government also triples its funding for CREATE so that we could have more capacity to reach young people across the NT.





CREATE launches *Experiencing Out-of-Home Care in Australia: The Views of Children and Young People* in March 2013; the primary purpose of the report is to benchmark experiences of children and young people against the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care. In an incredible effort across CREATE teams spoke with 1069 children and young people. Whilst the report found encouragingly that 83 percent of those surveyed felt safe and happy, it also found that one third of children and young people in care were split from their siblings and felt little connection to them.



CREATE was awarded a 2013 Child Protection Week Award for its role in supporting young people to have their voices heard in the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, also known as the Carmody Inquiry.

In November 2013 CREATE hosted *From Strength to Strength: improving the care system for children and young people through participation* in Canberra; the event was a massive success; almost 180 children and young people from Australia, UK, Canada and New Zealand attended, along with carers and professionals.

CREATE is heavily involved providing the voice of children and young people with a care experience into the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*.

The CREATE team in Victoria launch the 'The Hour of Power (HOP)'. HOP is an opportunity for CREATE young people to talk about issues in out-of-home-care that are important to them.



2013

The National Youth Advisory (NYAC) hosts its fourth summit in 2012 and celebrates some impressive wins including:

- Securing ongoing funding for Go Your Own Way information kits for young people across all states and territories
- ACT Parliament introduced legislative amendments to extend support to care leavers up to 25 years of age and;
- Introduction of vocational education fee-waivers for young people with a care experience in South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia



CREATE's National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) is reviewed, and is replaced by a biennial international conference for children and young people with a care experience to allow more to attend.



CREATE launches Power Within, a project to reduce the stigma associated with children and young people in care by photographic depiction of successful adults with a care experience. The project features high profile Australians such as Layne Beachley, Linda Burney and Paul Howes.

2014

A 25 percent increase sees clubCREATE membership levels reach a new record of over 13,000 members across Australia. Meanwhile CREATE Connection Events held across the year attract over 4,500 participants, one third of whom identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.



Chairman David Matcham moves on from the position after a seven year contribution to the CREATE Board, to be replaced by current CREATE Chairman Richard Hill.



CREATE's huge contribution to the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* continues with the CEO, Jacqui Reed, National Policy and Advocacy Manager, Noelle Hudson and Executive Director, Research, Dr Joseph McDowall appearing as witnesses at various Royal Commission public hearings. Two CREATE Young Consultants, Tash and Jono, provide their views directly to the Royal Commission as witnesses.

CREATE releases a national report about sibling contact, *Sibling Placement and Contact in Out-of-Home Care*, based on feedback from caseworkers, our *Youth Advisory Groups* and data from the 2013 report *Experiencing Out-Home-Care in Australia: The Views of Children and Young People* report; the report calls for more to be done to connect siblings who are split across different homes in care.

In NSW the CREATE Your Future program expands to young people with disabilities across New South Wales.

CREATE launches an evaluation of its Go Your Own Way kits, based on feedback from 369 young people across Australia; of these only just over half had received a GYOW kit even though everyone in the target group should have; the good news was that those had received the kit said it helped to increase their confidence and ability to plan for adulthood.



In Victoria, CREATE develops resources supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Same Sex Attracted and Sex and Gender Diverse Young People with a care experience.

FACS funds CREATE to develop a range of programs for young people in care with an intellectual disability, including Supported Decision Making training and an associated video, Voice Your Choice. Through this initiative CREATE skills up and empowers disability and care sector professionals to work alongside young people with disability in the care system.

2015

CREATE CEO Jacqui Reed is awarded a Churchill Fellowship to look at success factors in transitioning from care from around the world. Jacqui conducts interviews with policy makers, workers and young people in the Netherlands, France and the UK and develops a report utilising case studies with recommendations to inform Australian best practice and support young people have better post care outcomes. Connections were also made with our "sister agencies" in the UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland; today CREATE works with these organisations on World Care Day each year.



CREATE hosted our 2nd international conference, Youth for Change, in Brisbane. TV presenter Todd Sampson delivered a keynote presentation and conference participants were also given a direct opportunity to have their views heard by *Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald*, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. At a panel discussion about the stigma associated with being in care, young people called loud and clear for CREATE to lead new campaign addressing negative stereotypes; this led to CREATE launching our 'Snap that Stigma' campaign less than six months later.



"I don't know what it's like to be in care, I don't know what it's like to turn up to the door of a new foster placement, I don't know what it's like... so tell us. Tell us your experiences and I promise you we will listen, we will believe you and we will support you."

Commissioner Fitzgerald

2016

CREATE WA Young Consultants lead the first ever Young people in Care: Sector Summit in Perth, bringing together around 100 professionals from the WA youth and out-of-home care sector to hear from young people and discuss key issues affecting young people in care who are accessing both child protection.

A NSW government strategy focussing on adoption leads to CREATE's CEO becoming a member of the University of Sydney, Institute of Open Adoption Studies Reference Group, presenting CREATE's position on Adoption. This remains a "hot issue" for children and young people and CREATE asserts its position into debates and system design that focusses on adoption.



CREATE hosts our third international conference *Voices in Action: empowering young people for positive change* in Sydney. One of the resounding highlights for many of our delegates is the inspiring and empowering address from surfing legend, Layne Beachley AO.

2017

In Youth Week CREATE reinvigorates its Snap that Stigma campaign with the launch of a new video and position paper. The video, gained a lot of coverage, including Channel Seven's Morning Show and being played on large public TV screens in Northbridge Plaza, Perth.

"I think it's important to keep doing things like the Snap that Stigma video and promoting a positive image of young people in care. It's important to be spreading hope out to young people and kids in care and to give them a voice if they don't have one and to inspire and encourage them to speak up."

WA YC Shannieka



CREATE's Speak Up program reaches record attendance levels in 2017 with a total of 536 young people participating. One of the program graduates, Young Consultant Dwayte from the Northern Territory, is awarded the Young Person's award from NT Mental Health Coalition for his work with youth mental health.

2018

ACT Community Facilitator Nicky Link wins the YOGI Champion Youth Worker Award.



The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse hands down its final report; CREATE's contribution is recognised throughout the report and made of the recommendations echo sentiments made by children and young people over the course of the inquiry.

The next chapter of the Snap that Stigma campaign features a roadshow to increase community understanding of rights and barriers for young people with a disability. A group of 13 CREATE Young Consultants led the project and spoke passionately at community events, in the media and in another instalment of the Snap that Stigma video series which attracted over 40,000 views online.



The CREATE ACT coordinator Susan Pellingrino and the ACT team wins an ACTOSS AWARD for highlighting the "voices of the lived experience."

CREATE took the bold step of packaging its CREATE Your Future Life Skills programmatic IP to ensure that more young people could access the CREATE Your Future Program. In 2019, Key Assets and the South Australian government are first to take on the licenses.

A partnership between CREATE and Anglicare and others for the Home Stretch Campaign, starts to gain real traction. Home Stretch calls for state and territory governments to provide an option, whereby the provision of care can be extended to any young person until 21 years (as provided in many states of the US and in the UK). By the end of the year the Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia commit to trialling key elements of the Home Stretch campaign.

Former Justice Margaret White comes on board as CREATE's Patron. With a distinguished career that includes being appointed as the first woman to the Queensland Supreme Court, Ms White had been impressed by CREATE during her term as Co-Commissioner for the *Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*.

"I knew the work CREATE did and was impressed with its evidence based approach – you can bring about change if you can produce data to policy makers."

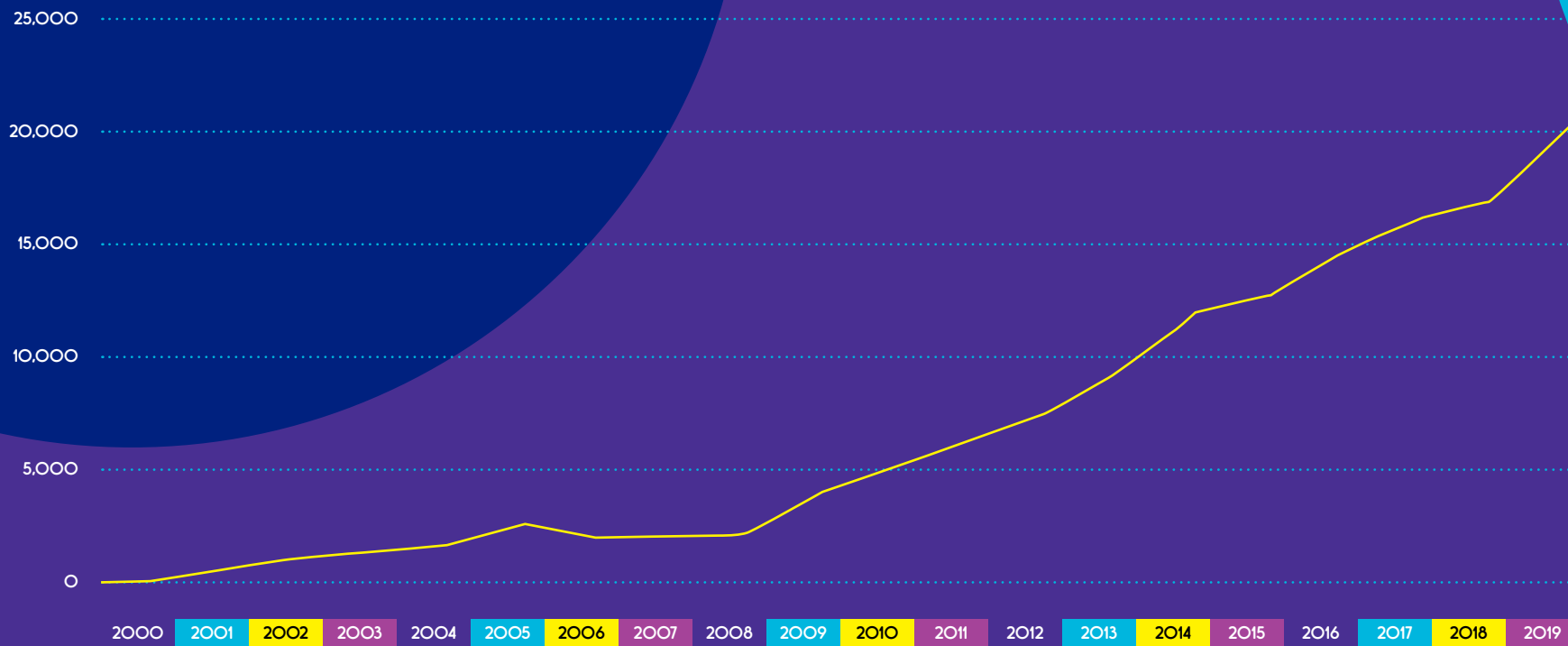
Margaret White



CREATE's launched the report, *Out-of-Home Care in Australia: 5 Years After the National Standards*, which hear the views of 1275 children and young people with a care experience. It found encouragingly that 93% of children and young people said they felt safe and secure in their current placement but that only 44% of those were aware of having a case plan.

The growth of clubCREATE

Number of
Members



Year

CREATE's model of Connect to Empower to Change has stood the test of time in terms of its effectiveness in helping children and young people feel less alone in their care experience and assisting them to develop the confidence to use their voice to improve the care system. We continue to play a vital role in the care sector today by ensuring the voices of children and young people are at the centre of decisions and are heard loud and clear. Over our 20 years, led by the courage and strength of our Young Consultants, CREATE has contributed to many significant improvements to the care system through countless submissions to State and Federal inquiries, discussions papers, reviews, as well as frequent participation in sector forums and other consultation processes. Our positions and responses are based upon the information and experiences children and young people with a care experience share with us through our research reports, think tanks and consultations.



Foster kids at high risk of homelessness

Source: John T. Francis, NCA
Published: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 9:13 AM
Expires: Tuesday, February 06, 2017 12:00 AM
A report released by advocacy group CREATE indicates that a third of young people who leave foster care experience homelessness in their first year of leaving.



PROBONO

Voice Your Choice Video Empowers Support Workers

Support workers for young people with disability have been given a "breakthrough" tool to help transform their practice by building the new NDIS system and empower them in full of home care at providing to their care.



The national peak consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience has released its first ever supported decision-making strategy.

The Endless Times

Out for children in care aims to foster friendships, build strength

Jimmy Mikulas MP
Thanks to @CREATEnd for giving young people a voice as part of our Roadmap for Reform, your advocacy has been amazing #springst

10 NEWS
Action needed to stop over-its leaving foster care to end up homeless, say carers and Anglicare
A young person in foster care is at a high risk of becoming homeless, say carers and Anglicare.

Age limit for children in state care to change from 18 to 21 under IWA trial



A 17-year-old young person who was in the care of the state and who was at risk of homelessness and homelessness risk factors.

Josh's tale insight into gravity of foster care



Josh's tale insight into gravity of foster care. Josh's tale insight into gravity of foster care.

NEWS
Child care abuse inquiry High Lynwood 100 of foster families, youth workers leaves children vulnerable, royal commission hears

NewsMail
Apply for personal protection insurance that covers you as soon as you're accepted
Sheena knows support matters

10 NEWS
We Spoke: Henry Brink
New South Wales
Royal Commission into child sexual abuse: children in care denied access to their own files

YOU CAN'T JUST SWEEP THESE YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE CARPET
A young person in care is at a high risk of becoming homeless, say carers and Anglicare.

Care leavers need extra support



I've lived in nearly 30 homes
Nathan, 19, has lived in nearly 30 homes since he was 12 years old.

THE AGE: Victoria

Siblings often separated in foster and residential care, Create Foundation report shows



Snapping stigma of foster care
A young person in foster care is at a high risk of becoming homeless, say carers and Anglicare.

Foundation creates a better future for youth
A young person in foster care is at a high risk of becoming homeless, say carers and Anglicare.



CREATE acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation and the role they have played in the development of CREATE over our 20 years. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present, and emerging.



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