

PLACEMENT & SUPPORT TO 21

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

CREATE Foundation travelled across Queensland, speaking to 42 young people (aged 15-18) with a care experience to hear their thoughts and views about extending supported placements up to 21.

The majority (38/42) of young people felt that a supported placement should be available up to at least 21.

"I THINK IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR IT TO BE CHANGED TO 21. 18 IS NOT A GOOD AGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEAVING SCHOOL AND IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND A JOB AND LIVE BY THEMSELVES...

LEAVING THE COMFORT OF A HOUSEHOLD AND ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD AT 18 TAKES AWAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S STABILITY WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST."

"18 IS WHEN CHILD SAFETY DROP ME. I NEED A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD."

"THEY SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN CHOICE TO STAY UNTIL THEY'RE 21 OR LEAVE WHEN THEY TURN 18."

Over two thirds of young people thought they should have the option to return to a supported placement.

Many young people did not feel confident in budgeting, getting a job and finding suitable accommodation.

"BETTER PREPARATION [IS NEEDED] . IT'S A BIT LATE. I'M NEARLY 18... HELP CONTROLLING MY URGES TO BUY STUFF AND MEAL PLANNING. IF I'M EATING ONE MEAL A DAY SUCCESSFULLY, I'M HAPPY."

One in five young people were unsure of where they'd live when they turned 18. This was higher for young people in residential care or youth detention .

"I'M IN HERE YOUTH DETENTION FOR 8 MONTHS AND ALL I WANT IS TO KNOW WHERE I'M GOING TO STAY WHEN I'M GETTING OUT. I'LL FIND OUT THE DAY BEFORE... HOW ABOUT I JUST GO BACK AND STAY IN 'JUVIE' FOR A FEW WEEKS. LAST TIME I GOT OUT, CHILD SAFETY...TOLD ME, 'SORRY YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO STAY. WE CAN'T PLACE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO HIGH RISK'... I FEEL IGNORED BY CHILD SAFETY."

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING TO STAY AFTER I TURN 18."

Over a third of young people shared that no one had spoken to them about where they'd live when they turned 18.

Many young people wanted to have more independence but still needed to have access to support services and networks through their transition to adulthood.

"INDEPENDENT BUT WITH SUPPORT... SOMEONE TO POP IN EVERY FEW DAYS..."

Some young people shared that they wanted to return to family at 18.

"MUM WANTS ME TO BE WITH HER. SHE MISSED OUT ON A LOT OF TIME WITH ME. I CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE OUT."

For more information,
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Most young people felt that they were more likely to achieve better study, housing and employment outcomes if they stayed with a carer (than doing it independently).

Young people shared that they wanted help in accessing support services, life skills, housing and relationships.

"I WOULD LIKE TO STAY WITH A CARER TO HELP ME WITH MY BORDERLINE PERSONALITY AND POSSIBLE PTSD. THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IT."

"I AM NOT READY. I HAVE NO MONEY AND I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH... TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY."

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