



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?



CREATE hopes that everyone is staying safe and healthy.

The coronavirus has meant a lot of changes for everyone. A lot of fun activities have been stopped for a while – things like sports and dance classes. School classes have moved online for most students. Some of you may not have had as many family visits as you used to have. We know that the coronavirus lockdown isn't much fun. We hope that you are coping with it as best as you can. By staying at home more, washing your hands regularly, and keeping you distance from others, you are doing you part to keep people safe and healthy. That makes you a hero!

One thing that has changed a bit this year because of the coronavirus, is NAIDOC week. This deadly celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture normally happens in July. This year, NAIDOC will happen a bit later in the year – in November. So there is more time to plan to for a great NAIDOC week.



CREATE is committed to supporting you guys no matter what. Whether working from home or in our office, CREATE staff will continue to offer different opportunities to children and young people in care. We have been doing our programs over the internet since April, like Speak Up and our independent living skills program CREATE Your Future. We have had regular Youth Advisory Group (YAGs) so that young people can discuss important topics like culture and identity and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

We have also had some great online Connection Events which are all about having fun. It looks like our Child Protection Week event in September will have to be online too – and we will have to see about the Christmas Party. But no matter what, we will get through this together. Stay safe.

Cath. Deb, Russ, Lydia and Pat



Youth Advisory Groups (YAGS) are regular meetings where young people can talk about their experiences, develop their self confidence and advocate for change. CREATE has been having weekly YAGS to discuss the following topics: Education, Well-being, Covid-19 lock down, Homelessness, NDIS, Identity and Culture. In our upcoming events, we will be discussing the issues facing LGBTQI children and young people in OOHC as well as Self-care and other topics that young people raise. We would love for you to join us.

We want to thank all the young people who have shared their experiences in the YAGS to help change improve the lives of children and young people in OOHC. Here are some things young people have shared in previous YAGS:

"Culture is something we want to learn about, culture is what makes us and we need to know about it. Not only us but also our workers."

"Too much junk food can lower your mood and energy, good food can make you feel better."



STAYING CONNECTED



CREATE has been holding connection events for under 13's, every week, via ZOOM. Our connection events are a space for young people to meet and have tons of fun. Our past events included: Talent Shows, Drawing Contests, Show & Tell, Disney Trivia, Indoor Scavenger Hunts, Celebrity Heads.

We have been giving out a \$50 evoucher in each event as well as some delicious food delivered. If you would like more information about our upcoming connection events or have any suggestions you would like to make, please email victoria@create.org.au

We would love for you to join in on the fun.

CREATE has also recently sent out art-packs to children and young people. We were absolutely thrilled to see the amazing artwork young people shared with us in the connection events. If you have received your art-pack but have not had the chance to share it with us, please feel free to email victoria@create.org.au we would be delighted to see your creations.





MEET VICTOR

Victor has turned 26. Victor has been apart of CREATE for many years, so we decided to ask him some questions about his time with us.



How long have you been a Young Consultant for?

I have been a young consultant for about 8-10 years started when I was 16.

What has been your favorite part of CREATE?

There hasn't been one thing that I enjoyed more than the other, I have really just enjoyed the process of being involved in the many things over the years being able to work with the many great staff at CREATE and being able to learn and grow as a person with the many things I have learnt.

Can you offer any advice for upcoming Young Consultants?

If I had to offer any advice to new Young Consultants the two things I always carry with me are:

1. Enjoy what you do, never take yourself too seriously - have fun.
2. All of your experiences are valid and everyone has something to contribute in whatever way you think best represents you. There isn't one way to do this.

EVENTS CALENDAR *COMING SOON!*

DATE	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
6/09/2020	Child Protection week	TBA	victoria@create.org.au
22/09/2020	CREATE Your Future part 1	Online	Deborah.watson@create.org.au
29/09/2020	CREATE Your Future part 2	Online	Deborah.watson@create.org.au
23/09/2020	Youth Advisory Group	Online	victoria@create.org.au
October date TBA	Connection Event	Online	victoria@create.org.au
October date TBA	Youth Advisory Group	Online	victoria@create.org.au



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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 VIC page on www.create.org.au or contact us at **1800 655 105** or **03 9918 0002** or victoria@create.org.au



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