



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?!



What a crazy year 2020 has been! A non-stop roller coaster, with one thing after another. For better or for worse, we're all in it together!

Now, it's almost over!!

The world is changing so quickly, you can be forgiven if you've lost track of time. I know that we have at times!

CREATE NSW is finishing off this year with a grin on our face, gratitude for the connections we made with young people (thanks Zoom), the bond we share in our team, and a bigger DREAM for progress in the year ahead.

Rising to the various challenges presented in 2020, we have been able to create incredible change in the system with your help and your voice.

We just want to say a massive thank you to all young people, especially our Young Consultants who have been a crucial part of our advocacy platform. Without your voice, there is no change. That's why we always want to hear from you. Your voice is welcome and encouraged at CREATE Foundation!

All our events have recently moved to have greater impact, with guest speakers and key decisions makers such as CEOs and Ministers. This has enabled our young people to have their voices heard by those in a position to create change.

At CREATE, we have fun while impacting change in the care system. So why not join our next events?

If you are not receiving updates about our events, message us on nsw@create.org.au to fix that!

We want to hear from you. Get in touch!



CHRISTMAS IN JULY - CONNECTIONS

While the world was in lock-down, we aimed to bring joy to you in the comfort of your own homes.

We have been utilising our Zoom account to the max and it's definitely been worth every penny because it has let us connect with you all over NSW for the majority of the year.

We hosted a Christmas party over zoom in July. What great fun it was, injecting a silly season into the middle of the year - we all had the good laugh together.

We made Christmas cards for our loved ones to be given out later in the year. It is good to be organised in advance. Some young people even made cards for themselves which could be opened later during Christmas. It's a card to your future self with words of kindness and love. It was great to see young people get their creative side on, using whatever they could find to recreate the Christmas theme.

We also sang out-of-tune carols but with the help of the Internet and technical glitches, it can be considered a remix!

It was so much fun hearing and watching everyone sing their heart out at a time like this.

To finish off, we learned how to make snow flakes to decorate our room/houses. It was amazing to see the creations of every young person present. Like snowflakes, our young people are beautiful and unique in their own ways.

Our Connection Events reach far and wide all over the state of NSW, but this time we even had a young person joining us from Victoria!





YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Have you been to our Youth Advisory Group lately?

If you haven't noticed, we have changed the face of our Youth Advisory Group (YAG). While it is still online, we have had a series of guest speakers present to discuss relevant issues in care.

There was a range of decision makers such as Pam Barker, CEO of Yfoundation, Katherine McKarnan, CEO of homelessness NSW, Zoe from the Advocate and our very own CREATE CEO Jacqui Reed. There was also a range of ministers present such as the Honorable Minister Ward, Honorable Minister Penny Sharpe. There will be many more guest speakers announced, so keep an eye out!

What a great way for the young people of CREATE to have an opportunity to meet, have your voice heard and enquire about important issues within the care sector such as youth homelessness, youth participation, extending care and mental health, life skills, youth actions and more.

As we do more events online, we would feel your love through the screen. Young people shared their appreciation for the Youth Advisory Groups, and one stated to that the group was the "best friend they have ever met".

Youth Advisory Group is about sharing and connecting in safe space with others who may have similar experience, so why not join us and create change next time :)



SPEAK UP

Our Speak Up program is a 3 module workshop that focus on communication and leadership training. It equips young people with the skills to Speak Up for themselves and other young people to advocate for positive change in the system.

Over the last few months, a group of young people joined us to share their experiences and learnt effective ways to communicate and advocate.

To say that learning is done only from one side is a lie. We learnt so much from the young people, their experience, resilience and courage to speak up despite circumstances inspire us all.

At CREATE we have a culture of acceptance embedded in our Child Safe standards. This enable a young person to share their story for the first time ever to anyone outside of their situation. It is these acts of courage from young people that are crucial to creating change in the system.

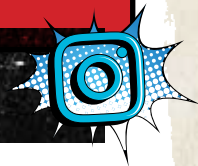
At the end of October we announced seven new, highly capable Young Consultants. Watch this space as they will be embarking on a journey with us over the next few years to advocate for change. I am sure you will be seeing a lot more of them in the future!



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WATCH OUT FOR OUR UPCOMING ADVOCACY

CECT webinar

Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) is a service system that helps children and young people who are recovering from trauma. ITC is for children and young people over 12 years and aims to provide intensive supports to maintain stability in living arrangements.

The ITC system, which replaced residential care across NSW from 1 July 2017, is now due for a review!

So, what is better than getting it from the experts? The young people themselves with lived experience to share with us what is working and what is not working.

At CREATE, we strive for continuous improvement and this is no different.

Children in Care Collective Forum (CCC)

Three NSW Young Consultants will have the opportunity to facilitate at the forum, focusing on the health and wellbeing of children and young people in OOHC.

The outcome is to develop recommendations and/or actions that can be taken to address the concerns of, and difficulties experienced by, children and young people in OOHC.



ADVOCACY @ CREATE NSW

We have been ramping things up here in NSW!

Utilising the current climate and government attention, we have been shining a spotlight on some of the issues in the care system and provide a wide range of platform for CREATE young consultant to advocate directly.

We held a meet and greet with Minister Sharpe - she is the Shadow Minister for Family and Community Services, and Disability Inclusion, as well as Minister Ward, who is the Minister for Child Protection

Our Young Consultants had the opportunity to directly share their views, experience and advocate for issues that are close to their heart.

For Child Protection Week - our Young Consultant Taya represented CREATE as a guest panel specialist on the Office of Children's Guardian (OCG) panel discussion. She did a spectacular job representing the voice of young people in care, asking organisations to ensure greater meaningful participation of children voices in decision affecting them and consideration for young people individual equity and diverse needs. With thousands of people in attendance, Taya's voice has created massive impact in multiple organisations and in the lives of young people in care.

We just want to give a shout out to our Young Consultants who have been working closely with us over the last couple of months to advocate. We cannot do any of this without you.

EVENTS CALENDAR *COMING SOON!*

DATE	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
11/09/20	Youth Justice Youth Advisory Group	Online	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
11/14/20	Speak Up 1	Online	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
12/12/20	End of Year Connection Event	Online	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
12/18/20	NSW Bushfires Youth Advisory Group	Online	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
1/07/21	Education- Youth Advisory Group	Lake North Parramatta	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
1/14/21	Summer Fun- Connection	TBA	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
1/18/21	Speak Up 2	Online	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
02/13/21	LGBTIQ+	TBA	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977
11/05/20	CWT- DCJ Every Thursday- until 17/12/20	TBA	nsw@create.org.au 02 9267 0977



**"YOU ARE THE
CHANGE YOU SEE"**

- Xiolia



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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 NSW page on www.create.org.au or contact us at 1800 655 105 or 9267 0977 or nsw@create.org.au.

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