

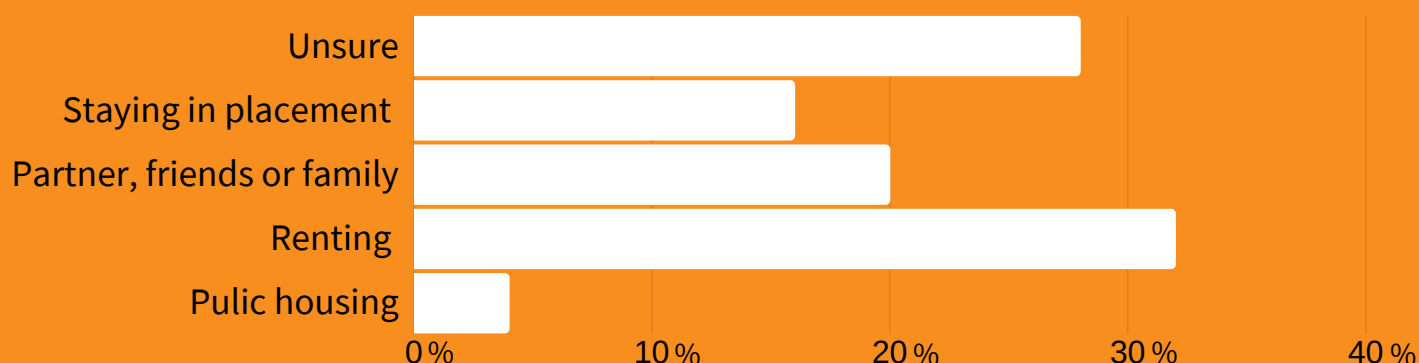
STAYING IN CARE UNTIL 21: THE VIEWS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Many young people leaving care at 18 are at risk of life outcomes such as homelessness, being involved in the youth justice system or becoming a parent at an early age. Giving young people the option to a supported placement until they are 21 is an important strategy to give care leavers the same opportunities as their peers not in care, and achieve their goals of stability, further education and employment.



But what do young people think about staying in a placement until 21? What support would they want? CREATE posed these questions and others to 25 young people with a care experience in South Australia.

Where are young people planning to live after they turn 18?



If young people could stay with their current carers after they turn 18, how likely is it they would take this option?

24% said 'Not at all' or 'A little likely'



64% said 'Very' or 'Quite likely'



What do young people think is good about staying with their current carers?

About a quarter of the participants said staying in their current placement would be good because of the extra support it would provide, particularly the emotional support. Other participants felt the stability and safety it would provide, as well as the opportunity to save money and finish their studies, were positives. Two young people spoke about their current carers as being their family and so wouldn't consider having to move.

I think that being able to finish my studies and save a little bit of money, I would have financial stability to move out. Extra skills that I would learn
- 17 year old

She's always been there for me and never let me down. She loves and cares for me. She's my Nan so why wouldn't I?
- 14 year old

What do young people think might be challenging about staying with their current carers?

Many of the participants didn't think there would be challenges. Some however thought the rules of the placement might be constricting as they became adults and wanted more independence, and three were worried about having to pay rent.

"I think being an adult and still having the rules of a child would be challenging"
- 17 year old

How long should we support young people to stay in a placement?

18

Only **one person** felt young people should leave at 18

21

40% felt they should have support until 21

25

56% wanted support until 25 years or above.

84% of young people felt it would be at least 'quite helpful' to be able to come back to a placement after leaving care at 18

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