



creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

Hour of Power (HOP) South Australia Report 2021

Young People's Voices - Advocacy in Action

Sibling Connection
Cultural Identity

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Hour of Power – SA – Report

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Executive Summary

CREATE is proud to present and support the Hour of Power (HOP) Youth Forums. The HOP is a powerful platform and example of youth participation, empowerment and advocacy and in action. CREATE Young Consultants and all young people with care experiences hold incredible insights due to their lived experiences (seen in the HOP). These contributions have and can help inform the care sector to drive changes to improve the lives of children and young people in care.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our original 2020 HOP was postponed, but it did not dampen the young people's motivation and drive to hold our first ever HOP in South Australia. The HOP is a platform to EMPOWER young people with a care experience (referred to as Young Consultants in this report) to come together and shared their powerful insights, experiences and ideas to the sector. This included a panel of decision makers:

- Cathy Taylor - Chief Executive of Child Protection,
- Penny Wright – Guardian of Children and Young People in care,
- April Lawrie - Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People,
- Helen Connolly – Commissioner for Children and Young People;
- To open the event, Rachel Sanderson – Minister for Child Protection,
- And we thank Susan Dixon for welcoming us to the land of the Kurna people.

On the 19th of February 2021, Young Consultants shared their insights and challenged current practices, contributing ideas to help drive positive CHANGE!

The three main themes included:

1. Transitioning from Care and Post Care Support – Planning, support until 21 years and post care support require immediate change to practice and legislation.
2. Sibling Connection – Keeping connected to siblings and the significance of these relationships.
3. Cultural Identity – Highlighting the importance of being on land, staying connected to culture and cultural practices.

This report is a recap of the event so that those who were unable to attend have the opportunity to learn alongside us all. We will highlight the young consultants' key messages, ideas for change; a summary of the panel member responses and the actions being taken in response to this advocacy for change.



Hour of Power - Youth Empowerment and Advocacy in Action

CREATE helps young people to EMPOWER themselves as experts of their own care experiences. Young people and their care experience, voices, insights and views are valuable and important. Young Consultants with CREATE speak for themselves and also speak up on behalf of children and young people in care who can't speak up. Young people should be included in decisions that affect them and get opportunities and support to be listened to and participate.

The Hour of Power is a powerful youth led platform. Young Consultants (with support) plan and set the agenda, topics, messages and ideas with a purpose to share messages to help influence positive changes in the care sector. Young Consultants share their messages directly to our valued sector partners, case workers and key decision makers such as the Minister and NGO CEOs. When young people are valued and heard they are more empowered and the care sector is empowered with young people sharing their knowledge insights and ideas.



Young people let us know what works and what doesn't in the systems (child protection, education, health etc) because they have lived a life within these systems. At the HOP adults and decision makers have a golden opportunity to listen and learn about what's important to young people, including what they find helpful and what needs to change.



19th of February 2021 – The Joinery

A team of dedicated Young Consultants spent their COVID lockdown in SA early 2020, meeting with the panel members via online platforms, to refine their thinking, discuss their ideas and get to know how each of the panel member roles worked. The 19th of Feb 2021 was a celebration of their determination

to share their messages to the wider audience. While full of nerves, the young consultants spoke to a room of people – asking our panel members to provide their responses to the young consultants' stories and ideas for change.

After a wonderful start to the morning, we were welcomed to country by Aunty Susan Dixon who took us through a sensory journey welcoming us to Kaurna land. CREATE Foundation CEO, Jacqui Reed introduced the Hour of Power, our panel members and young consultant speakers. Minister Rachel Sanderson officially opened our inaugural Hour of Power in South Australia, highlighting that young people's voices matter to government as CREATE young consultants were a big part of the push towards closing large residential facilities in SA.

We heard about Dadirri, which Aunty Miriam Rose Ungunmerr shared with the world. Aunty Miriam Rose tells us that Dadirri is a gift of the Aboriginal people. We were encouraged by the MC's, Tricia and Sonja, to consider harnessing Dadirri – having an inner deep listening and still awareness to truly take on board a variety of experiences and views.

The morning continued with our MC's sharing brief presentation about the upcoming Post-Care Report CREATE will launch in the coming months. We then heard from Ellie and Nick about Sibling Connection and finishing with Brooke as she spoke of her journey Connecting to Culture and the importance of Cultural Identity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

What is a morning of advocacy without good food, coffee and a splash of creativity as Life Without Barriers team encouraged us to consider what we can change in our practice, organisation or system to improve the lives of children and young people in care. We hope that the momentum and energy from HOP will lead to future Hour of Power's so that others can join in with this change making opportunity in South Australia.



Young Consultants' Key Messages



Transitioning From Care

Post-Care Report Teaser: Sonja

Sonja did a brief presentation on transitioning from care that included the key statistics highlighting the poor outcomes for young people as they exit care. CREATE will launch its latest National Post-Care report in mid 2021 which will highlight this advocacy issue. To discover more on this topic, see below appendix for power point slides.

Sonja let us know, “my long-term foster carer kicked me out and I was lucky enough to have a friend whose parents took me in....my story isn’t unique. In fact, it is a story shared with many other young people who leave care.”

HOP young people: Our Ideas for change



- Improve forward planning for transition
- In partnership, DCP and CREATE, develop a framework of anticipated expectations for young people as they exit statutory care
- Provide mentoring during and after transitioning from care
- Increase resourcing for post care support
- Extend “care” until 21 years (but not legal guardianship)

Sibling Connection

The facts and figures: Ellie and Tricia

Young Consultants, Ellie and Tricia took us through national research conducted by CREATE Foundation, which found that South Australia had the highest proportion of siblings (42%) who have been split (not living with any of their siblings). Ellie shared with us that siblings are the people who you have a similar experience and who you go through life with. She reminded us about the importance of siblings, being kept together where possible and how important ongoing connection with your siblings is. Ellie informed us that sibling connection is a fundamental part of life while in care, and continues after young people have left care. We heard that siblings are the most commonly contacted family member for young people in care after leaving care. Nurturing sibling bonds while in care can help reduce the impact of previous negative experiences. (McDowall, J. J. 2015). Ellie informed us that **“co-placement of siblings or maintaining sibling connection in care, can act as a protective factor for a child or young person’s mental health”**. (McDowall, J. J. 2015)

Siblings are a big part of our lives now and into the future.

Tricia:

Tricia shared her experience of what it was like entering care as the carer of her younger siblings. **“I took care of them and they knew who I was. I was their mum”**. Sadly, her and her siblings moved in with a relative which did not go to plan – ending in them, on the most part, being split up and living separate lives. **“Us getting split up, changed everything”**. Tricia spoke about the loss of bond with her siblings but wanting now to be a role model for her brothers.

Nick:

Nick commented on the positives of sibling connection and how seeing his brother regularly in a comfortable and fun environment made a big difference. **“My nana and one of my old social workers communicated a lot and this made it easier for me to catch up with my brother”**. Ensuring carers and workers are in regular contact means that the natural times together are less challenging. **“it made it feel more ‘normal’, like when families go out and do fun activities together”**. While Nick had to move out of his grandmother’s home, he said that he still feels like he is an important part of his brother’s life, **“I’m the big brother who looks out for him”**.

HOP young people: Our Ideas for change

- Use different cultural and social interpretations of the term “sibling” to be included in future communication about sibling connection.
- Unless there are good reasons – don’t separate siblings. Consider different options, support family-based carers to take on more children. But if they have to be separated, please see the importance of getting them together regularly. Like having carers in the same area, sending them to the same school or join a sports or hobby club together.
- Sibling connection and the importance of sibling relationships need to be of greater significance in DCP daily work, foster care recruitment and induction, placement decisions and the big pieces of work like the strategy – every effort for every child. If DCP see siblings as an important part of our future lives, it could help change the daily decisions that are so important to us.

Cultural Identity

Supporting us in our Cultural Connection and Identity - Brooke

Brooke is a proud Kurna, Ngarrindjeri and Nyigina woman who shared her journey with us at the Hour of Power. **“Aboriginal culture is filled with storytelling and it is the way that we do things. So instead of telling you all the facts that you should already know about how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home-care are at a rate of 10.6 higher than non-Aboriginal children. I will instead tell you my journey, my broken story about how I’m learning about my culture and where I come from”.**

We heard about Brooke’s childhood, knowing that she was Aboriginal but not knowing where she was from and who her mob was. Meeting her dad and being introduced to her land in the Kimberley’s was big. **“We got to meet my land and culture....that was the most wholesome experience of my life. Connecting to family, land, connecting to culture . It was natural”.** Brooke shared the impact that living in residential care had on her life. The unnatural parts and the lack of cultural experiences and knowledge. She advocated for change so that other children and young people get the opportunity to engage with their culture throughout their life. **“to know your cultural identity, at least for me, is seeing family regularly, getting a chance to go out to the bush often, learn about bush tucker, connection and cleansing, learn about dreamtime, totems and spend time with the old fellas and nanas.”**

HOP young people: Our Ideas for change

- Strengthening the commitment to all of the five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles – making connections to family a priority, making really good attempts at finding family and that they are involved from the beginning.
- Funding needs to be provided specifically to enrich the cultural experiences of children and young people in care. Resourcing to fund people, camps, programs and opportunities to meaningfully connect children and young people to their land, traditions, culture and family members.
- Invest in Aboriginal social workers, youth workers and mentors – having at least one significant person in the child’s life who can genuinely engage them with culture.

Panel Responses



Penny Wright

Guardian for Children and Young People

Sibling Connection

We asked Penny about the common challenges when it comes to sibling connection and staying in contact with siblings. We posed the question about what changes need to occur and what action would Penny take to improve this.

Penny affirmed this advocacy importance. **“My Advocates take calls from children and young people every day and our records show that contact with ‘significant others’ is one of their most common concerns – with 65% of those about contact with their siblings. This is also one of the most common issues we hear about when we audit annual reviews of children’s circumstances. Too often sibling contact is not occurring or is occurring infrequently and much less often than a child or young person is requesting. These are often the most significant, supportive and enduring relationships children and young people will have and they must be supported.”**

During her response, Penny spoke about the challenges of getting siblings together. **“Maintaining sibling contact can be complex due to children being case managed by different DCP offices (either across metro or, between metro and regional offices). Challenges arise when different DCP offices or carers are not in agreement about sibling contact, or there are geographical barriers. Sometimes lack of transport or carers’ time pressures mean arrangements are not made or are cancelled. Covid-19 further complicated this in 2020.”** Penny also mentioned case drift and workers just not making something happen. We heard about potential conflict between carers (where and when sibling connection occurs); transport and potentially where siblings have different views about seeing each other.

Penny’s Recommendations:

- Acknowledge that the challenges are not a reason for lack of sibling contact. Rather, they are the reason that we must prioritise this as a value and work harder to achieve it.
- There needs to be a systems level change for sibling connection to be recognised as a fundamental human right.

Cultural Identity

Penny discussed the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection system. This also means that the number of young people needing advocacy and support is also over-represented.

Penny informed us, “knowledge of, connection to, and pride in their culture and kin is vitally important for all Aboriginal people but especially children and young people who are in the care of the state.”

Penny went on to share with us background to the evolving Nunga OOG (Office of the Guardian mascot) and the fact that an Aboriginal Advocate within the team received feedback from some young people that they couldn't relate to the fluffy yellow OOG, that was the safety symbol for her office. **“...due to the initiative of my Advocate for Aboriginal Children, we are in the process of developing a ‘Nunga OOG’. Our workshops, in collaboration with an Aboriginal artist, are not just an opportunity to hear the perspectives and ideas of the Aboriginal children who participate but also to extend their knowledge and understanding about their culture, their rights and the work of my office. Promoting the rights and best interests of all children and young people in care is an ongoing commitment of my office and culture is an integral part of this for Aboriginal children.”**

Penny's Actions:

- The Office of the Guardian is developing the Nunga OOG to represent the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.





Helen Connolly

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Helen Connolly thanked CREATE and the young people who organised the Hour of Power. “The Hour of Power was a great opportunity for key stakeholders to be in the same place, to hear about an issue identified as a priority by children and young people in care, and identify individual commitments for action.”

Sibling Connection

Helen spoke on our panel and in her response to sibling connection she suggested that all kids talk about 5 things that are most important in their lives.

- Learning
- Family and friends
- Opportunities to be involved in things outside of their family
- Being prepared for the future
- Doing things they love.

Helen highlighted that **“when I talk to kids in care – what I find is that they say these things are often missing in their lives. I also hear that relationships with parents and carers can be difficult and take time to repair, this causes even more worry about what is going to happen in their future. In these situations their relationships with siblings take on more meaning and are a real source of comfort. Separation from them can be a lot more distressing than many adults really understand.”**

Cultural Identity

Helen highlighted the need for systems – school in particular, to address bullying. She identified that racism is still one of the major reasons for kids getting bullied. The Commissioner suggested we need a state response to address disrespectful relationships. Helen went on to say, “reconciliation in our community will only be achieved when we have a strong acceptance of what happened has happened at a policy and practice level, and the intergenerational impact this continues to have on children and families.

Part of the solution is to teach children about Australia’s history and the trauma that was caused to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. And in learning this history to also celebrate our First Nation people and the culture of the land on which we live. **“We need a more universal approach that supports all Aboriginal children in our community to feel proud, and have opportunities to experience connecting to culture.”**

“As leaders we need to ensure that DCP and the care system more broadly asks children and young people what we can do to support them to feel that they are loved, cared for, safe and have things in their life to look forward to. Once we hear what they say, the responsibility rests with us to act on this information and genuinely implement new ways of providing the care and support they want.” (Helen Connolly – Commissioner for Children and Young People)

Helen’s Recommendations:

- Improve the system design and models of care to include children and young people in developing solutions.
- Development of a state response to address disrespectful relationships within schools.
- Improve curriculum to include Australia’s history and the impact of colonisation on our First Nation peoples.



Cathy Taylor

Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection

Sibling Connection

Cathy Taylor honoured the young people with her strength in listening and came prepared to respond with potential actions/changes which the department could make. She engaged with the stories from the young people, saying that they “...really highlight the challenges” but that there is “... **an importance for siblings, if possible to be placed together**”. Cathy reinforced her commitment on behalf of the department, that when siblings cannot be placed together, consideration needs to be made to place children and young people in the same community as their siblings; or at the same school or to attend activities together regularly. Cathy commented “**there’s no one more important in the world, who knows your backstory, than your siblings. The bad, the good and the ugly**”.

Cultural Identity

After hearing from Brooke about her journey of learning about her own culture and the challenges as an Aboriginal young person in care, Cathy acknowledged that it isn’t enough just to consider cultural identity once in care but how family and community are engaged from the outset. She discussed family led decision making, recognising that family isn’t solely mum and dad. Cathy suggested a “...**really practical challenge is to do better from identifying and finding supportive family, that’s our number one thing**”.

Cathy discussed the DCP workforce and the work that has been done in this space lead by Tracey Rigney. She reflected at the HOP “**I also look across this room and think about our Principal Aboriginal consultants and Aboriginal Family Practitioners and the wisdom they hold. They’re the first to tell us they don’t hold all the knowledge and it is critical to engage with family and community**”. Cathy acknowledged that there is a lot that could be said but reaffirmed that getting the legislation in place so that the 5 domains of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle are fully embedded in legislation is a key priority.

Cathy further made written commitments after the Hour of Power:

Commitment 1: DCP will be responsive to the needs of children and young people and will privilege their voice and lived experience.

Commitment 2: DCP will support siblings to live together wherever possible. In instances where cohabitation is not possible, DCP will deliver innovative strategies to preserve sibling relationships, building on a diverse range of communication mediums.

Commitment 3: DCP will collaborate with Out of Home Care Providers to increase the number of family-based placements that can accommodate siblings and improve practitioner awareness of the importance of preserving sibling relationships.

Commitment 4: DCP will continue to design, implement and evaluate initiatives that improve connection to culture for Aboriginal children and young people in care, drawing upon the cultural authority and expertise of Aboriginal staff, organisations and the community more broadly. These efforts will be supported by the *Children and Young People (Safety) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020*, which seeks to embed the Principle as the paramount consideration in the administration, operation and enforcement of the Act as it relates to Aboriginal children and young people.



April Lawrie

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Sibling Connection

April supported the importance of siblings, **“siblings are about family. Connecting, and what we know is that for Aboriginal children and young people in care, siblings are family.”** April encouraged us to consider siblings in the Aboriginal cultural context – that this is family and is really important to have that contact with siblings in care and those not in care. We heard from April **“...knowing about your family, your history, where you are from, your community, relations, who you’re connected to, your country. That requires a sense of spirit, building your own confidence about who you are as a young people and your relationship.**

April’s Commitment

- Advocating for change for Aboriginal children and young people in care to receive improved prioritizing so that sibling connection can occur.
- Recommend for young people, where age appropriate, to take the lead with organizing their family time and sibling connection.

April spoke of the challenges for Aboriginal children and young people to see their siblings, often having to wait on a social worker to organise this time for siblings to get together. April encouraged a flexible approach, empowering young people to participate in arranging family contact and connection with their siblings. **“I’ve heard first hand that our young people feel like they are part of a great machinery of government and have to wait to fit into the schedule of the social worker.... to organise the contact between the young people and their families. They can organise that themselves.”**

Cultural Identity

April began her response, reflecting on Brooke’s story. **“...it’s about a positive cultural identity, that’s the responsibility of the Aboriginal Community”.** April shared that building an Aboriginal child’s cultural identity isn’t the role of government but the **“...people in our community”.** She went on to explain that the system has a role in opening up the doors of government to **“...allow cultural educators to have the ability to teach our young people their culture and their identity....Developing a positive cultural identity is also about being in the care of your family and community”**

April encouraged those at the forum to consider listening to young people who are asking for Aboriginal workers and mentors. **“...that Aboriginal worker may be their insight into their family, give them a bit of language and knowledge about where they’re from and their community. And if that Aboriginal person doesn’t know your community, they can put you into contact with someone who does. Never underestimate the role of an Aboriginal worker and your relationship to an Aboriginal young person about what you’re able to bring to the experience of that young person”.**

April’s Recommendation:

- Ensure all Aboriginal children and young people have an Aboriginal worker or mentor in their life to support their engagement with family, culture and connection to country.



Minister Rachel Sanderson

Minister for Child Protection

A copy of Minister Sanderson's concluding reflections after the Hour of Power:

"This year's first ever Hour of Power event enabled me to meet young people in care, hear their personal stories and speak about issues that are important to them. It is always valuable receiving feedback and hearing about their own lived experiences so we can work together to improve outcomes. As the Minister for Child Protection I am working hard every day to achieve this.

Topics discussed during Hour of Power included; transition from care, the importance of maintaining sibling connections and maintaining cultural and familial connections for children and young people that enter care. These are all areas that my Department and I are committed to improving.

Many young people would be aware that we have extended carer payments to eligible carers and young people up to 21 years of age through family based care. We are closely looking at ways we can provide and extend support for young people transitioning from care and after they turn 18 years of age.

We have also put more resources into making DCP residential care facilities more home like and have introducing the Sanctuary Therapeutic Residential Model of Care. This will ensure staff have better relationships with children and young people in care so they have a better experience in residential care.

Congratulations again to the team at CREATE for hosting the inaugural South Australian Hour of Power event. I look forward to continuing my ongoing engagement with CREATE and supporting future events including the next Hour of Power."

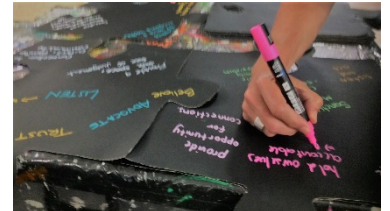
Audience Responses, Ideas and Actions

Life Without Barriers delivered a creative responsive activity after the Hour of Power event.

The themes or takeaways that we noticed, were focussed on the importance of hearing from children and young people. To take notice and listen while walking in this journey with children and young people in care. What really stood out, was that everyone who took part, wants to see children and young people succeed in life.

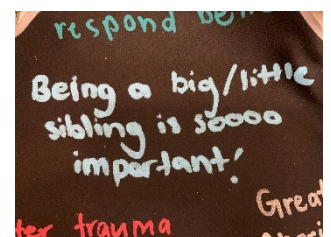
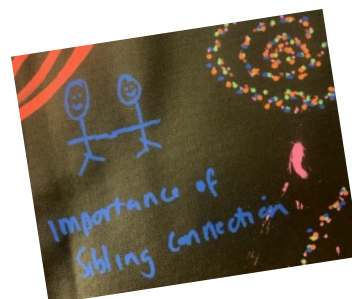
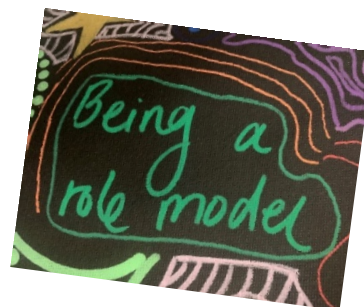
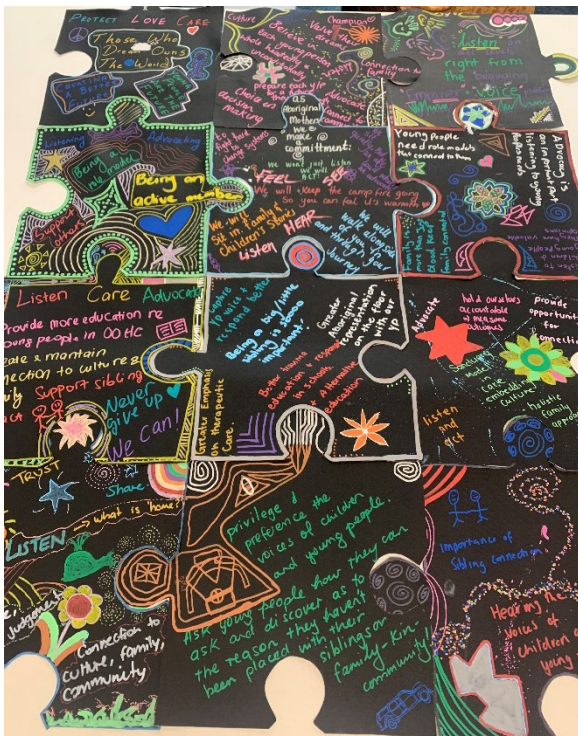
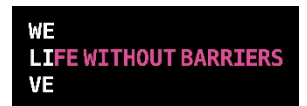
The action focussed comments highlights topics such as:

- "Being a role model"
- "We won't just listen we will ACT!"
- "Believe in each young person wholeheartedly and unconditionally."
- "Support sibling contact"



The topics to really take notice of, and themes that people heard, included:

- "Connection to family"
- Having role models available for Children and Young People
- "Listen and act"
- The sanctuary model with a strong embedding of culture
- Considering practice and holistic family approaches
- Importance of Sibling Connections
- Providing opportunities for Children and Young People to have input into decisions



Where To From Here?

CREATE Foundation in South Australia will be conducting follow up advocacy meetings with each of the panel members alongside young consultants throughout April -June 2021 as we continue to advocate and collaborate towards change together. We will be discussing the recommendations, actions and commitments from the panel members and consider opportunities that CREATE can support the evolution from intent to action. We are keen to continue to engage young people's voices in the future systemic change and collaborative opportunities.

This report will provide those who could not attend, with the opportunity to hear about the event, learn from the young people's experiences and hopefully encourage attendance at future Hour of Power's in South Australia.

CREATE Foundation and young consultants are looking forward to working with the panel members and audience as we all hope to develop the atmosphere for all children and young people in care to live the life that they hope for their future.





Thank you

CREATE Foundation is extremely thankful for the bravery of the young consultants who shared their stories and insights. Particularly inspiring was their commitment to holding our first Hour of Power. After the challenge of COVID, the young consultants met with the panel members on zoom, learning more about each of the panel members roles, their scope for affecting change and to define their messages of advocacy. This Hour of Power could not have been the success it was, without:

Sonja, Brooke, Nick, Ellie and Tricia.

We would also like to thank the panel members for, not only, their attendance and participation in the lead up to the event and their reflections on the day, but also their commitment to improving the lives of children and young people in care. CREATE Foundation would also like to acknowledge and thank HOP supporters including the audience, our care sector supporters who were unable to attend and Life Without Barriers for holding the creative reflection session after the HOP.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment and for your support as you value the voice of young people.

References

McDowall, J. J. (2015). *Sibling placement and contact in out-of-home care*. CREATE Foundation.

See below references within the appendix – for the presentation on the day of the event.

Appendix



creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

SA Hour of Power

Friday 19th February 2021
International Care Day



Transition from Care

In CREATE's 2021 Post Care report (McDowall, 2021):

- Survey of 325 young people aged 18-25 years old

Transition from care plans

- 43% had no plan

Accommodation

- 30% of young people experienced homelessness within the first year of leaving care

Education

- 57% of participants had completed Year 12, an increase from 35% in 2009 (McDowall, 2009).

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Sibling Connections

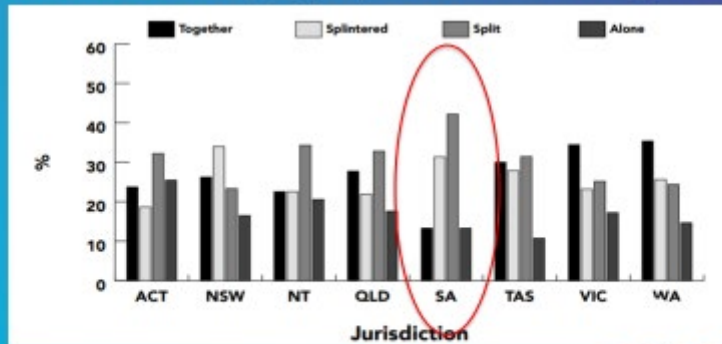
In CREATE's 2018 National survey (McDowall, 2018):

- Only 53% of respondents with siblings in care were living with at least some of their brothers or sisters. This has increased from 35.4% in 2015 (McDowall, 2015).
- 30% knew they were separated from all of their brothers and sisters. A decrease from 35.6% in 2015 (McDowall, 2015).
- Siblings = most commonly contacted family member for young people in care.

Sibling Connections: SA context

Compared to other jurisdictions:

- SA had the highest proportion of siblings who were separated in care (over 40%). This has reduced since 2015 where SA had 53% of siblings separated in care (McDowall, 2015).
- Sibling contact was particularly high which may help compensate for the higher numbers of split placements.
- Over half the children and young people in SA wanted more sibling connection



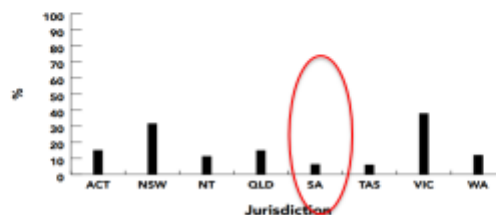
(Source: Figure 3.72, McDowall, 2018)



Cultural Connection

In CREATE's 2018 National survey (McDowall, 2018):

- 18% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were clearly aware of their own Cultural Support Plan (CSP). This has increased from 11.6% in 2015 (McDowall, 2015).
- On average, young people rated their involvement in preparing a CSP as 45.9 (on a scale: 0: *Not at all involved*; 100: *Very involved*).
- 16 out of the 26 Indigenous young people in SA knew of their personal CSPs.



(Source: Figure 3.71, McDowall, 2018)

References

McDowall, J. J. (2009). *CREATE Report card 2009: Transitioning from care: Tracking progress*. CREATE Foundation.

McDowall, J. J. (2015). *Sibling placement and contact in out-of-home care*. CREATE Foundation.

McDowall, J. J. (2018). *Out-of-home care in Australia: Children and young people's views after five years of National Standards*. CREATE Foundation

McDowall, J. J. (2020). *Transitioning to adulthood from out-of-home care: Independence or interdependence?* CREATE Foundation.

CREATE Foundation

The CREATE Foundation is the National Peak consumer body for children and young people with an out-of-home care (OOHC) experience in Australia. We represent the voices of around 48,000 children and young people currently in care, and those who have transitioned from care up to the age of 25.

Our vision is that all children and young people with a care experience reach their full potential!

Our mission is to create a better life for children and young people in care!

CONNECT to EMPOWER to CHANGE

To do this we;

Connect children and young people to each other, CREATE and their Community *to*
Empower children and young people to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and skills that enable them to have a voice and be heard *to*
Change the care system, in consultation with children and young people, through advocacy to improve policies, practices and services,

