

LOUDER TOGETHER EDITION

# CLUB CREATE MAG

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**HEAR YC  
MARUSHA'S  
STORY**  
.....

.....  
**COUNTRY -  
MORE THAN  
JUST A PLACE**  
.....

.....  
**FIND OUT  
ABOUT THE  
DISABILITY  
ROYAL  
COMMISSION**  
.....

.....  
**MEET CREATE  
MATE TAYLA**  
.....



    
**5 CHANCES TO WIN INSIDE!**



## Welcome to clubCREATE Mag!

Hi clubCREATE-ers!

Welcome to the Louder Together edition of the clubCREATE mags. Louder Together means that when we use our voices together, the messages become louder and stronger and we can make greater change. This edition is jam-packed full of advocacy led by clubCREATE members like you!

We have so many interviews for you in this edition! We had a chat to Rachael, CREATE's new National Influencing Manager, got to know CREATE Mate Tayla, and talked to Young Consultant (YC) Marusha, who has been doing some amazing work on changing the care system with the United Nations! We also dive into CREATE's National Youth Advisory Group and look at the findings from our latest report. Plus, keep an eye out for hidden megaphones with words throughout this magazine. They spell out a secret message that can help you win a prize!

If you want to share your voice and making change, come do our Speak Up program! Doing Level 1 of SUP makes you a CREATE YC. CREATE YCs are youth advocates who help us make the care system better. To get involved get in contact with your local CREATE team. Their details are on the back of your Round Up.

Happy reading,

*Jacqui Reed*

Head Honcho, CREATE Foundation



### WE LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Send us comments and suggestions to  
[clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au)

### ISSUE 3, 2021 CLUBCREATE'S EDITORIAL POLICY

clubCREATE magazine is produced by CREATE Foundation for children and young people in care. This magazine contains information about CREATE programs that create a better life for kids in care and also has articles and artworks by clubCREATE members.

The views expressed by these young people are not

necessarily the views of CREATE Foundation.

It's really important to us that children and young people in care are safe and protected and we do our utmost to ensure their privacy. For safety reasons state laws don't allow the faces of kids in care to be published without proper permission.

so please understand if sometimes we can't show faces in our pictures.

All contributions to be considered for the magazine can be submitted by emailing: [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au) or post: Reply Paid 87694, CREATE Foundation, SPRING HILL QLD 4004.



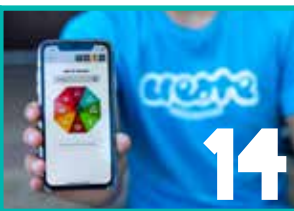
If you do not want to receive newsletters and program information from CREATE Foundation, please email [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au) or phone CREATE on 02 9267 1999 or 1800 655 105 to have your address removed from our mailing list.

### Acknowledgment of Country

CREATE would like to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's first people and Traditional Custodians. We value their cultures, identities, and continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community.



# CLUB CREATE<sub>MAG</sub>



## ISSUE 3, AUGUST 2021

### *In this issue...*

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GET SOCIAL!  /CREATEfnd

 @CREATEfnd

 @CREATEfnd

# IN THE LOOP

## VOICES IN ACTION IS BACK!

We've been working hard getting ready for next year's Voices in Action: Resilient, Resourceful, Remarkable Conference. Voices in Action is three days of inspiring speeches, workshops, and interactive panels. It brings together the people who work in the care sector and young people who have a lived experience of the care system. Voices in Action: *Resilient, Resourceful, Remarkable* will be held at the Adelaide Showgrounds from April 28 to 30.

Do you want to come along to Voices in Action and help us make positive change to the care system? Then apply for one of our Young Person grants. Each conference our grant system funds young people from across Australia to attend this amazing event.

Apply for your chance at a YP grant here...



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON CREATE'S WORK

Do you want to have your say on how CREATE is run and what we work on?

Then get involved by filling out our Strategic Plan survey. This survey determines CREATE's priorities over the next three years. It's your chance to make sure we're focusing on issues that are important to you. But hurry, our survey closes at the end of September!

Be part of the strategic plan



## CHANGES TO THE CLUBCREATE MAGS

We're changing how we bring you the magazines!

From the next edition onwards, the Over 12s clubCREATE magazines are going digital. We'll be giving you just as much awesome content and competitions, but we'll be delivering it digitally so you can have the mag at your fingertips whenever you want it.



Individually

## RACHAEL'S CREATE-ING CHANGE

Rachael is our National Influencing Manager, which basically means she helps CREATE make change to the care system. Not only is Rachael an important part of CREATE's Leadership Committee, but she's also really passionate about youth participation. That means she's always trying to find new ways to involve clubCREATE members like you in changing the system!

### **How would you describe yourself in three words?**

Passionate, adventurous, persistent

### **What's your favourite thing to do on your weekend?**

Anything outdoors! Hiking, gardening, swimming in waterholes, climbing mountains or going to the beach.

### **What made you want to work for CREATE?**

I was a Young Consultant at CREATE when it first started more than 20 years ago. I was fortunate enough to get a 2 year traineeship in Youth Work with CREATE at this time and got to do lots of really cool things like speak at conferences, meet Minister's and run camps with young people. After my traineeship finished I started my own family, did lots of study and got to do some really cool jobs including 5 years in India. In 2019 I saw the Queensland State Coordinator position advertised and I knew that I would love to come back to CREATE to help lead the organisation that made such a huge impact on my life. It has been such an honour and privilege to work alongside young people in Queensland to make the system better. Recently I was offered the National Influencing Manager role and I am super excited to be able to work with young people across all states and territories to hear their voices and change the care system to make it better!



### **Is there a particular CREATE event or program you love, or advocacy win you're proud of?**

I am proud that I was one of the Young Consultants that developed the vision and mission of CREATE all those years ago, and to be working with young people today to ensure they continue to have a voice and get to participate in advocacy and systemic change.

### **The next one is very important - favourite food?**

Pizza!

### **Have you got a favourite quote or a message for clubCREATE members?**

"Here's to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes... the ones who see things differently — they're not fond of rules... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can't do is ignore them because they change things... they push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the ones who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do." - Steve Jobs



## MEET

# CREATE MATE TAYLA

CREATE Mates are people who work in the care sector and want to help CREATE make it better for you. We had a chat with our awesome CREATE Mate Tayla from Child Safety in the North West of Tasmania.

### Tell us about yourself!

#### What's your role?

I'm Tayla, I'm 24 and I am from Burnie Tasmania. I have a dog named Molly and I play soccer. I work at Child Safety in the Case Management Team.

#### Why are you a CREATE Mate?

I became a CREATE Mate because every day I am in awe of the young people I get to work with. Their strength, resilience and ability to overcome adversity made me want to be involved in making sure that the child safety system saw them for the incredible young people they are and listened to them when they had something to say or things weren't working for them.

#### What's something you're passionate about in the care sector? What's something you're proud of?

There are so many areas of the care sector I am passionate about but mostly my passion is making sure we listen to you! I love coming along to YAGs and seeing the relationships young people have developed with one another and listening to all the ideas young people have on how we can make the care system better.

I am so proud of the kids I have worked with who have or are transitioning to independence. I am so excited they will get to create their own future.

#### Everyone's a bit wacky in their own way - what's a fun fact about you?

I am the most accident-prone person and I'm always covered in cuts and bruises. I've even broken the same arm, three times, falling off the same monkey bars!



Tayla

## Report Summary:

# TRANSITIONING TO INDEPENDENCE

## WHAT WE FOUND

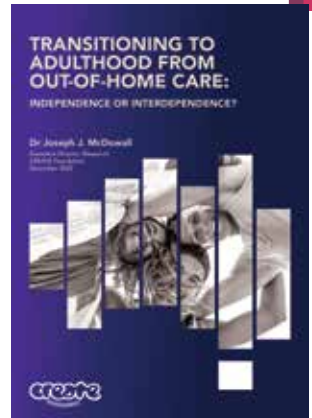
Our report found that we need to rethink the idea of “leaving care” entirely and highlighted five key areas of concern, including support for transitioning, issues with caseworkers, issues with carers, placement stability and safety, and involvement of young people in decision making.

Only **36%** of YPs surveyed had a Transition Plan

**17%** were homeless when leaving care

**30%** were homeless within the first year of leaving care

**62%** were aware of TILA and 43% had applied for it



## SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Since our report was launched, our state teams have been busy talking to decision makers about what we found and trying to make change. One of our major priorities continues to be extending care until 21 for those who want it. We're going to keep pushing until everybody has support until at least 21.

We also want to make sure you know what support services you're entitled to. 38% of young people weren't aware of TILA. TILA is the Transition to Independent Living Allowance. It's a one-off payment of up to \$1,500 to help you cover some basic costs when you leave care. If you're 15 to 25 years old, you may eligible for TILA, even if you have already left care.



# Spotlight on **MARUSHA!**

We have amazing Young Consultants (YCs) at CREATE who work to advocate for a better care system. We'll be shining the spotlight on one of our YCs in every edition of the mags so you can get to know some of the incredible young people who make CREATE what it is.



Hi, my name is Marusha. I am a 24-year-old pre-school educator, administrator, and disability rights advocate.

Born in India, adopted at 5 months old, and later placed in foster care at 5 years old, I have faced many challenges in life. I have Cerebral Palsy, use a wheelchair, and can only functionally use one finger. I am vision, hearing, and speech impaired. This has not stopped me from doing and achieving many things in my life.

At 5 years old I joined CREATE and was given many opportunities and experiences from the fun parties, camps, conferences, forums and research studies. At 19 years old, I became a young consultant and participated in the video called Snap that Stigma, which offered me the opportunity to travel and tell my story.

In 2020 I applied, and was selected, to work with 15 young people from around the world and look at a way to improve the lives of young people and children in foster care. Our recommendations will be presented to the United Nations, Day of General discussion, in Geneva. It continues to be an amazing experience.

## **My words of hope:**

**Be kind to yourself and others. Never give up on your dreams no matter how farfetched they may seem. Take every opportunity offered. Create your own opportunities, don't always expect others to hand them to you on a plate. Help others, be a friend and be the best person you can.**





# COUNTRY

- more than just a place

The theme of this year's NAIDOC Week was Heal Country, but what is "country"? You might think of country as just a place, but for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it is so much more. Country is a big part of identity. It involves land, family, law, lore, ceremony, traditions, and language.

## WHAT'S A WELCOME TO COUNTRY?

A Welcome to Country is a ceremony that welcomes visitors to country by the traditional owners of the land. Not only is it an important way to recognise and show respect to the traditional owners of the land, but it also welcomes outsiders and wishes them safe passage through the land. It's important that a Welcome to Country is performed by one of the land's traditional owners. Usually this an elder, but it can also be a young person who has permission to do it. The ceremony can include traditional languages, dances, singing and a smoking ceremony

If you can't get a traditional owner to perform a Welcome to Country, you can do something called an Acknowledgement to Country. This is where you pay your respects to the owners of the land by recognizing whose land you're currently on. Acknowledgments to Country can be done by anybody.



A traditional smoking ceremony!

**Do you know who the traditional owners of the land you are on? Let us know what country you're on and you'll go into the running to win a gift card! If you aren't sure of what land you're on you can look up the AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia to help you figure it out.**

**To enter this competition you can:**

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto:clubCREATE@create.org.au)
2. Send us a message on Instagram or Facebook @CREATEFnd or /CREATEFnd
3. Enter on our website at [www.create.org.au/competitions](http://www.create.org.au/competitions)
4. Post it back to us free of charge! Send to: Reply Paid 87694 (no stamp required) SPRING Hill QLD 4004.

**Entries close October 22nd 2021.** Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!

**COMPETITION  
TIME**

# The Disability ROYAL COMMISSION

Right now, the Government is running the Disability Royal Commission (DRC), which is an official inquiry into violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of People with a Disability.

The DRC uses research, public hearings and people's personal experiences to make recommendations for changes to law, policy, structure and practice. It's designed to make society a safer and fairer place for People with Disabilities. If you want to share your story with the DRC, you can make a submission or apply for a private session. The DRC will hand in its final report with all its recommendations to the government by September 29, 2023.

## What is the DRC looking for?

The DRC is interested in experiences of People with a Disability with violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

- Violence is when someone physically hurts you
- Abuse is when someone is treating you badly
- Neglect is when someone isn't taking care of you how they should
- Exploitation is when someone takes advantage of you



## Submissions

A submission sounds really formal, but it doesn't have to be. A submission can be a statement, an interview, an audio recording, a video, a song, a piece of art or anything else that tells your story. Anyone with a disability, and their families, carers and support people, can make a submission. Your submission can be kept confidential if you want.



### You can share your submission

By **post** at GPO Box 1422, Brisbane Qld, 4001

By **email** at [DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au](mailto:DRCenquiries@royalcommission.gov.au)

By **calling** 1800 517 199

Or **online** at [shareyourstorysubmission.disability.royalcommission.gov.au](https://shareyourstorysubmission.disability.royalcommission.gov.au)

## Private Sessions



Another way to share your story is through a private session. These are confidential meetings with a Royal Commissioner that can take place in person, through video conferencing or on the phone. After you apply for a private session, the private sessions team will contact you to organise when one will take place. A private session lasts about an hour or two and a counsellor will be available to support you afterwards.

**2,823** SUBMISSIONS  
**482** PRIVATE SESSIONS

At the time of writing this, the DRC had received **2,823** submissions and held **482** private sessions. It's important to remember that each and every story in the DRC matters. Every story makes the message louder. Without individual stories there is no change.

## Public Hearings

A public hearing is a formal proceeding where witnesses give evidence about what's happened to them and how they've been affected by particular issues. If you make a submission you may be asked to be a witness at a public hearing.

**You can say no if you aren't comfortable doing this.** Upcoming public hearings include:

- First Nations children with disability in out-of-home care, September 17-24
- Preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation in disability services (South Australia), September 30
- The health and safety of women and girls with disability, October 13-19



## Support Services

Sharing your experiences with the DRC is an important part of making sure that things change in the future, but it can also be really tough to share experiences that are so personal and traumatic. There are a range of support services available for people involved with the DRC, including:

### Blue Knot

1800 421 468

For free, specialist counselling support and referrals for anyone affected by the DRC.

### Your Story Disability Legal Support

1800 771 800

For free independent legal advice for those interacting with the DRC

### Disability Advocacy Finder

[disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/](http://disabilityadvocacyfinder.dss.gov.au/disability/ndap/)

To find individual advocacy support in your area.

### Lifeline Crisis Support

13 11 14

For 24/7 support for when experiencing emotional distress.

## Get involved with CYDA

CYDA stands for Children and Young People with Disability Australia. CYDA offers free membership for 18 to 25 year olds with disability and families of children with disability. A CYDA membership gives you the chance to have your say on CYDA's work, allows you to vote at general meetings and nominate board members, and keeps you up to date with reforms, issues and events. Get involved at [cyda.org.au](http://cyda.org.au)



## Want to know more?

Visit the CREATE blog to read our full story on the Disability Royal Commission, including Q&As with some amazing young people who have shared their stories with the DRC.

## Child Protection Week

# YOUR DREAM NEIGHBOURHOOD

Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.  
To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we  
need to make sure every family and community has  
what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

This is the theme of this year's National Child Protection Week. It means that it's not just up to mums, dads or carers to make sure you have what you need, but up to everybody.

To make sure you have what you need, NAPCAN (the people running Child Protection Week) want to know what your dream neighbourhood looks like so we want you to draw a picture of it for us. Maybe it has places to do fun activities, or maybe it's full of important places you think every neighbourhood needs. Maybe it's full of things, people or animals you like. Draw us a picture, make a collage, or even just write down what your dream neighbourhood looks like and you could win a gift card!

National Child Protection Week runs from September 5th to the 11th. We have Connection Events for Child Protection Week happening across Australia. Check out your Round Up or the CREATE website for events near you!



Draw us a picture,  
make a collage, or  
even just write down  
what your dream  
neighbourhood looks  
like and you could win  
a gift card!



### To enter any of this competition you can:

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto:clubCREATE@create.org.au)
2. Send us a message on Instagram or Facebook @CREATEFnd or /CREATEFnd
3. Enter on our website at [www.create.org.au/competitions](http://www.create.org.au/competitions)
4. Post it back to us free of charge! Send to: Reply Paid 87694 (no stamp required) SPRING Hill QLD 4004.

**Entries close October 22nd 2021.** Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!

COMPETITION  
TIME

# NYAG

## CREATE's National Youth Advisory Group

CREATE Foundation's National Youth Advisory Group (NYAG) project gave young people with a care experience the opportunity to advise our Federal Government on key issues that affect their lives. CREATE's state and territory teams held Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) across Australia, where around 50 children and young people with a care experience came together to discuss education and employment. After the YAGs, CREATE staff nominated one participant from each state and territory to represent their state or territory in the NYAG.

NYAG participants shared their experiences and advocated together on things like education, employment, getting your license, and bullying. The experiences, issues and solutions discussed by young people in care were put into a report.

We're bringing this report to the National Children's Commissioner.

**NYAG was an amazing example of youth participation, and how our voices are louder and more effective when we work together.**

"Support is scarce for integrating into employment, especially when juggling mental health, education, housing, financial issues at the same time." Male, 20

"I had to fight for my education and fight for everything and tell myself I am worth so much more than what they can see. We can achieve a lot more if people believe in us and see the potential in all of us." Female, 23



Do you want your chance to have your voice heard on topics that affect you? Come along to one of our YAGs in your state or territory and you can have your say and join in on a fun activity with other young people. Check out your Round Up or the CREATE website to find YAGs near you.

# COOKING

## - the ultimate survival skill

Learning to cook can take some time but it is worth the effort. You tend to eat better and cheaper if you make the food yourself.

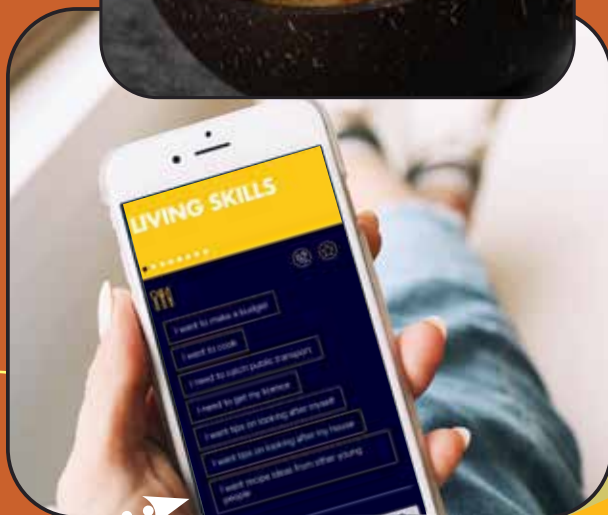
A great tip is to complete the Healthy Eating Quiz on the website No Money No Time. You'll be provided with an easy to understand diet score and it will highlight how to improve your eating habits with suggestions on easy and yummy recipe ideas based on your money, your time and what you actually like to eat!

**'No Money No Time's'  
Tuna & Vegetable Fritters  
are tasty and cheap,  
costing \$1.70 per serve!**

Another place to check out is Sortli! Did you know there is a section in Living Skills dedicated to recipe ideas from young people like you have sent in? Easy, affordable go-to recipes they found great when they transitioned to independent living.

### **Want to contribute your favourite recipe?**

Send it in to [sortli@create.org.au](mailto:sortli@create.org.au). And remember to download Sortli for more tips like this. It's free, it's helpful and it's made just for young people like you.





# Competition Central

## RIDDLE TIME

A man was outside taking a walk when it started to rain. The man didn't have an umbrella and he wasn't wearing a hat. His clothes got soaked, yet not a single hair on his head got wet.

**How could this happen?**

Check out the back of this mag for the secret answer. Do you have a fun fact, riddle or joke? Send it through to us for your chance to win!

## SOLVE THE SECRET MESSAGE...

We've hidden five megaphones with secret words throughout this mag. Try to find all the megaphones and use their secret words to complete the message below. Send us the hidden message and you could win a gift card.

\_\_\_\_\_, we are \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_, we are an \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR PROGRAMS?

**Have you been to a YAG, SUP, CYF or anything else run by CREATE?**

Let us know what you thought about it and you could win a gift card!

GIFT CARD

GIFT CARD

### To enter any of these competitions you can:

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto:clubCREATE@create.org.au)
2. Send us a message on Instagram or Facebook @CREATEFnd or /CREATEFnd
3. Enter on our website at [www.create.org.au/competitions](http://www.create.org.au/competitions)
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COMPETITION  
TIME

CC  
2021

**WINNER!**



**YOU ROCK!**

**EDITION 2, 2021  
COMP WINNERS**

**QUOTE  
COMPETITION**

Alyson, 15

**DESIGN OUR COVER**

Rose, 13

**SMILEY SURVEY**

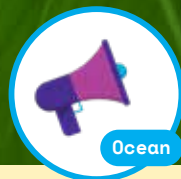
Ben, 23

**MAG SUGGESTIONS**

Nikleta

**FUN FACT OR JOKE**

Zach



**SUPER SECRET RIDDLE  
ANSWER:**

THE MAN WAS BALD

**ALYSON'S QUOTE:**

SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL,  
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL -  
IT IS THE COURAGE TO  
CONTINUE THAT COUNTS

**ZAC'S JOKE:**

WHAT DO PIGS WRITE  
WITH? A PIG PEN!



**THANKS EVERYONE FOR SENDING YOUR ENTRIES IN.  
WE HOPE YOU LIKE THE PRIZES!**

Don't forget to enter the comps in this edition.  
**Entries close 22nd October 2021.**



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