BE PROUD OF YOURSELF! EDITION

106

clubCREATE Mag • Edition 1 • 2022

Magazine

MEET YOUNG CONSULTANT ELECTRA LEARN ABOUT IDENTITY! WHAT MAKES YOU A ROCKSTAR?

COMPETITIONS & GAISSES INSIDE ! MIN COOL PRISES!



Hi clubCREATE-ers,

Well well it's 2022! And here at CREATE we've kicked off the year with a cracking pace.

While COVID is still hanging around, that hasn't held us back with our teams still connecting with you as much as possible - online, if it hasn't been safe in person. We've loved seeing your faces and hearing what you have to say.

This edition of the mag we are focussing on being PROUD! Being confident and proud of yourself can feel tricky, but it's so important to remember we are all unique and special in our own ways and to celebrate that.

We hear from some cool young people, update you on what CREATE has been up to and also have some fun comps for you to enter. Make sure you send in your entries so you can go into the draw!

Can't want to connect again soon,

Jacqui Reed

Head Honcho, CREATE Foundation



Send us comments and suggestions to clubcreate@create.org.au



Acknowledgement 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.



EDITION 1 FEBRUARY 2022



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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 email: clubcreate@create.org.au or post: Reply Paid 87694, Spring Hill QLD 4004.

If you do not want to receive newsletter and program

information from CREATE Foundation please email clubcreate@create.org.au or phone CREATE on 02 9267 1999 or 1800 655 105 to have your address removed from our mailing list.

In the LOOP Whatweve been up to...

A little extra note from Jacqui

I've had the wonderful privilege of being CREATE's CEO for over 14 years and during this time I have met the most amazing, courageous and resilient children and young people. My job involves meeting a lot of decision makers and trying to influence them to improve the system for children and young people. I can only do this well after I have heard the voices of children and young people either through our research, consultations or by speaking directly to them.

The last two years with COVID has really stretched our resources, and our capacity to meet with children and young people in person and I've missed being able to do this. It's just not quite the same on zoom, although it is certainly better than phone and email.

I'm looking forward to our new Strategic Plan coming into force from July 2022 and want to thank all the young people who provided feedback about what our priorities should be for the future.

WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO UPDATE YOU ON!



Voices in Action Conference

Once this edition is in your mailboxes, the ViA2022 conference will only be DAYS away. We are so excited!! If you've missed out on attending this year, don't be disheartened! We will be sharing lots of insights from the conference with you on our socials and website in the weeks to come. If you're attending the conference - we can't wait to see you there and make change together



Care Day

In February it was Care Day! This day is about bringing together people from all over the world who have a care experience and celebrating them! This year the theme is "It takes a village." This is all about how everyone can make a difference in the lives of children and young people in care, and that anyone can have a positive impact on their lives.



New National Standards

It's really important for children and young people to have rights. For the past 10 years, there have been National Standards that outline the rights of children and young people in out of home care in Australia. Now, the Government has put out a new report called Safe and Protected: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children. This framework is still being worked on, so we don't know a lot about it yet but we know that children and young people in out of home care are a special priority group. We will keep you up to date as we know more!

National Families Week coming in May!

Every year, all around Australia we celebrate National Families Week! This campaign is all about celebrating families in all their diversity. This year is the 20th year celebrating National Families Week! Make sure you keep an eye out on our socials as the date gets closer to learn more about what we're doing to mark the occasion!



Children and young people being empowered

Community focussed

Meeting place

FINDING MEANING THROUGH ART

One of our awesome Young Consultants also happens to be an incredible graphic designer, business woman and Aboriginal artist! We asked Leticia and her team to put together some artwork for us to use that really represented what CREATE is all about. We love it!

Journey on Country



Connecting to different communities

Can you draw a picture or create some artwork of what CREATE represents to you?

WE'D LOVE LO SEE IL!

TO ENTER THIS COMPETITION:

- 1. Send your entry via email to clubCREATE@create.org.au
- 2. Send us a message on Instagram @CREATEfnd or Facebook /CREATEfnd
- 3. Enter on our website at www.create.org.au/competitions
- 4. Post it back to us free of charge! Send to Reply Paid 87694 SPRING HILL QLD 4004

ENTRIES CLOSE: 6TH MAY 2022

Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IDENTITY...

WHO AM 1 ???

Through talking to young people in one of our consultations recently, we learnt that there are lots of things that can help a child or young person make up their identity! Things like photos, stories and artworks can all make up a person's sense of who they are and where they fit in the world.

Young people valued good quality records as they helped them:

- navigate and participate in the world
- to know their story and what happened in their life
- to maintain good health and wellbeing
- to remember





When you're in care, a lot of this information is kept in a special record for you to access when you're older. But sometimes this can be tricky to do! So, after hearing from young people that they wanted more information and to be able to access these records better we sent a report to the Government asking them to help young people better with this!

It's so important to know your history to help you figure out who you are and where you're going.

What are some things that make you who you are? Maybe it's your favourite type of music, or an activity you like to do? We'd love to hear about it!

LET'S TALK ABOUT IDENTITY...



There is so much that makes up a person's identity! It can be things you like or dislike, the clothes you like to wear, your culture, the activities you do and the people around you - and so so so much more! A big part of your identity can be something called your "pronouns" - whether you are she/her, they/them, he/his or a mixture of these.

We talked to one of our Young Consultants about pronouns and why they can be important.

HI, MY NAME IS ELECTRA and my pronouns are they/them.

How can people ask about someone's pronouns if theu forget or are unsure?

The best way to ask for someone's pronouns is simple "hey what are your pronouns?" If you are too rambly or over apologetic for not knowing it can make someone feel uncomfortable and guilty for causing confusion. Sometimes people feel awkward or unsure about someone's pronouns. Remember that you should be respectful of what pronouns someone uses, regardless of whether they are familiar to you or not. People are the experts of their own experiences.

At CREATE we know that identity is important, and that it is important to be respectful of other people's identities too! Knowing who you are can make you feel more confident in your own skin, and we want everyone to feel proud of who they are!

Can you explain why it's important for people to use the correct pronouns?

It's important to use the correct pronouns because misgendering someone can be extremely damaging to a person's self-worth and world view. When you use a person's correct pronouns, you are telling that person that you respect and celebrate that person's true self.

FLECTR

A CREATE INTERVIEW...

MEET CREATE MATE EMILY SANTOSEFANO

Tell us about yourself! What's your role?

My role is Youth Engagement Officer for Residential Care which means I work together with young people to improve their experience of living in Residential Care through advocating, consulting and delivering programs like CREATE Your Future.

Why are you a CREATE Mate?

I am a CREATE Mate because I believe the work that CREATE does is incredibly important in improving the care system and giving young people a voice. Young people are the experts and are in the best position to tell us about their experiences. CREATE provides a number of opportunities for young people to engage and connect with each other and their wider community through consultation, activities and programs.

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

I am passionate about giving young people a voice and empowering them to take control of their lives and decision making for better outcomes. I am proud of the young people that I get to work alongside and their continued resilience.

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

I love to travel! I have visited over 10 countries and had the amazing opportunity of working with young people in the Home of Love program in Cambodia over a 7-year period.

Coper land



Why I'm a rockstar...

DON'T BE SHY!

We know you're all rockstars... but we want you to tell us why! Fill out the bubbles below with the things that make you great. You can draw or write - the choice is yours! Send them back to us for your chance to win.

- WINDIG

To enter this competition you can:

SNAP THAT

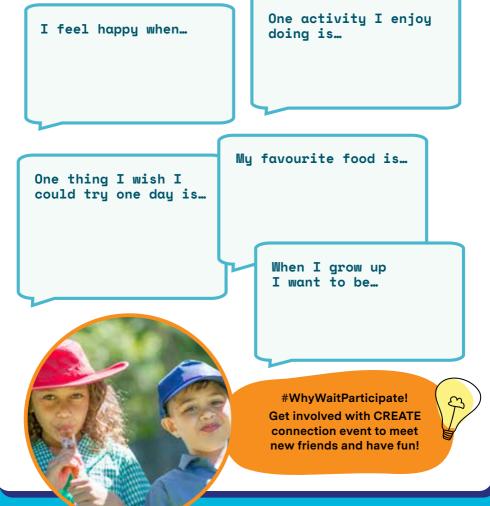
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- (no stamp required) SPRING Hill QLD 4004.

Entries close 6TH MAY 2022. Make sure you include your

name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!

It's your life so... GET INVOLVED !!!

We recently spoke to young people about what they thought and felt about participation! Participation is a fancy way of saying that you get to have a say in decisions that impact your life. You might not always be able to get your own way, but it's important that you at least feel heard, and if you aren't able to get what you want, that you understand why.





Connect, Empower, Change... CREATE!

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Can you solve the word scrambles below?

| Scrambled: | Unscrambled: | |
|------------------|--------------|--------|
| SUG | | × |
| CENCTNO | | |
| WEERMPO | | |
| HGEANC | | |
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ACT ROUND UP What's been happening

SO PROUD!

Keeping up with the ever-changing environment has not always been easy but we are very proud of the ACT community. Not only has the ACT become the most vaccinated city in the world, but we also could not be more proud of our young people and their ongoing contributions and commitment to the CREATE community. They truly do embody the CREATE ethos of connecting, empowering and changing and never cease to amaze us!

YAGS

Another big success was our most recent Youth Advisory Group. Young people from NSW and ACT came together to share and discuss their experiences of mental health services in care. The session was highly fruitful and was an absolute pleasure to be a part of.



FUN ONLINE

The past few months have been jam packed with fun connection events and insightful Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs). In spite of our January program being postponed, we quickly transitioned back into the world of technical difficulties and hilarious Zoom backgrounds. Perhaps most notably was our Christmas trivia party that saw young people test their Disney and Christmas knowledge. Many laughs were shared and a good time was had by all.



GET ARTY!

Don't forget to submit your entries for our upcoming art competition. There have been so many amazing entries already (see on this page!) and we can't wait to see what is still yet to come. Also be sure to check our website or contact us act@create.org.au for more details about upcoming events.

> **ART THEME:** What is family to me?

Kathleen, aged 16

Marilan, aged 17

WANT TO KNOW WHAT EVENTS ARE ON NEAR YOU?

Call your local state team on 1800 655 105 or check out all our events at create.org.au/find-an-event

NSW ROUND UP

Update...

Well, 2021 was a non-stop roller coaster! But 2022 has brought a new year and we are looking forward to facing any challenges together. Here at CREATE in NSW we are starting this year off with a new team of two new Community Facilitators - we can't wait for you to meet them!

THANK YOU!

While we reflect on the year that was, we've got grins on our faces, gratitude for the connections we've made via Zoom and BIG goals and dreams to achieve in 2022. Rising to the various challenges presented in 2021, we have been able to create incredible change in the system with your help and your voices. 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.

BEING HEARD

Recently, our events have had even greater impact with important decision makers as our guest speakers. We've had CEOs and Ministers and more! This has enabled our young people to have their voice heard by those in position to create change.

GET INVOLVED

We'd love to have you involved - so why not come along to our next event? 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!



Hi, I'm Mohita the VSW State Coordinator

Young Consultant in the Media

One of our awesome Young Consultants Mathew spoke to the Daily Telegraph about extending care: "The instability of being in care and the lack of support ... how are we supposed to be cut off at 18 and stay afloat without someone looking out for us?" Thanks for speaking up Matthew!

NT ROUND UP What's been happening

YOUTH ADVISORY GROUPS

Have you attended one of our Youth Advisory Groups? Not only are they lots of fun, but you will get to express your thoughts about your experiences in care. In November we held a YAG at the local table tennis club and our Acting Children's Commissioner, Sally Seivers attended to hear what our members. had to say about caseworkers. In December our members attended Minister Worden's Ice Skating Party and reflected on the year as well as focusing on goals for 2022. We hold YAGs every month in both Darwin and Alice Springs so if you would like to come along get in touch!

sortli



WELCOME CHRIS!

"Hi everyone, my name is Chris and I have recently joined the CREATE team in Alice Springs. I love cooking, spending time at the oval kicking a ball with friends, and really hate sleeping in (controversial I know!).

I am really excited to be a part of the team and can't wait to get to know all of the amazing young people within the CREATE community."

YOUNG CONSULTANTS

Two of our Young Consultants have been invited to sit on an Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Panel for Life Without Barriers, who run some of our residential care houses. They will be able to make sure that young people are receiving a service that is culturally appropriate.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT EVENTS ARE ON NEAR YOU?

Call your local state team on 1800 655 105 or check out all our events at create.org.au/find-an-event

QLD ROUND UP

Update...

Happy New Year, QLD Crew!

Hope you all had a safe and restful break!

KICK IT OFF WITH KICBOX

We finished off 2021 with some great Christmas Parties at Wet 'n' Wild and Chermside pools! We also had an amazing YAG focused on LGBTQIA+ experience and kicbox!

kicbox is a private, digital memory box that keeps everything safe and in one place. It also provides a more convenient way for you to communicate and share information with your Child Safety team.

They will upload your information, photos and documents into your account so you can access them throughout your time in care. Chat to your team about setting up your very own kicbox and start keeping all your important memories and documents in one place.



We asked young people....

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF KICBOX?

"I really like that CS has the app, I have felt we have needed that for so long"

19, Non-Binary, regional

GET INVOLVED

As we kick off 2022, we've got heaps of events happening both in Brisbane and in Cairns. Get in touch if you're interested in joining us for one of our upcoming events! Send a friend request on Facebook or give us a call!

OR CHECK OUT THE LINKS BELOW TO GET IN TOUCH! WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE.



SA ROUND UP What's been happening



ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

Leading up to the election, CREATE in South Australia has been meeting with the Minister Rachel Sanderson and the Shadow Minister, Katrine Hildyard to provide opportunities for Young Consultants to share their experiences and key advocacy messages. We have focussed on sibling connection, cultural connection and extending care until 21 years.



COVID CAN'T KEEP US DOWN!

All of you fabulous humans have been amazing, adapting with us as we have moved back onto online events for the start of 2022. We have had fantastic turnout for our YAGs as we focussed on areas such as mental health and wellbeing, sibling connection and what young people appreciate knowing/receiving when entering care. We have also had a number of young people complete SUP 1 and 2 on Zoom!! We had fun, and the food deliveries and gift cards help.

LATE LAST YEAR 2021

Later in 2021 we were able to sneak a few events in before COVID hit. We had a painting poles YAG and a few water based connection events! It was great to see everyone face to face and enjoy some outdoor events before Christmas!





YAG QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

If you could wave a magic wand and improve things with your siblings what would change?

"We'd all get along, live closer together and break the cycle of the negative relationships"

WANT TO KNOW WHAT EVENTS ARE ON NEAR YOU?

Call your local state team on 1800 655 105 or check out all our events at create.org.au/find-an-event

TAS ROUND UP Update...

WE'RE WELCOMING BACK BILL!

We have welcomed Bill back!! That's right, after spending nearly a year working on other things, Bill is back on board! You might see him at • CREATE Your Future workshops or • running connection events.

Youth Advisory Groups

We gathered some super informative info from young people at YAGs all around TAS about feeling loved, safe and mental health. We even joined in with young people from South Australia to discuss what's working and what could be improved in the mental health space for young people in care. It was an awesome opportunity to meet and chat with other young people from another state. We continue to be so impressed with the fabulous ideas and solutions young people provide to contribute towards positive change within the system!

To end on a fun note, here's a little joke. What's a pirate's favourite letter?

ARRRRRRRRRR

WHAT'S CHANGING IN THE TASMANIAN CHILD SAFETY SPACE.

Review of Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act!

The Act is law which Child Safety and other agencies have to follow to make sure kids are kept safe and it's 25 years old! So it's time for a review! CREATE in Tasmania will be chatting with children and young people soon to make sure your voices are at the centre of the new law! Get in contact if you want to be involved, this is super important work!

COVID and Connection Events

As COVID continues to throw curveballs, we have changed up the waterslide party this year to a super summer scavenger hunt! Did you enter? Did you find a fish, beach umbrella or a palm tree? So many stunning entries from clubCREATE members all-round the state, thank you!! Check out create.org.au and follow the link through to view all entries online.

We lastly want to thank young people for being so awesome with adapting to changes with Speak Up and CREATE Your Future workshops as they moved online for hopefully what is a short stint in 2022! You guys are seriously amazing and it has been great to still connect with you during this time.

VIC ROUND UP What's been happening

2021 ended with 12 days of Christmas! It was exciting to see so many of you join us in the events to celebrate the festive season. We have welcomed 2022 with heaps of online events to get involved in.

In January we met with DFFH to talk about how to make Family Group Conferencing (FGC) better for children and young people. FGC is a meeting for families to help plan the best way to stay together healthy and well.

NEW CHILD PROTECTION MINISTER

A new child protection Minister was appointed for Victoria in December. We look forward to our Ministerial Youth Advisory Group working with Minister Anthony Carbine to hear the voices of our clubCREATE members.

CREATE CHANGE MAKERS

CREATE in Victoria is excited to be selected to participate in the 2022 Youth Parliament. Six young people will have the opportunity to join 120 young people from across the state to create a community of change makers. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop and deliver a Bill to parliament that the young people are passionate about. Our Youth Parliament team will be announced next edition.



MEET KAZ

"Hi, I'm Kaz, I've been involved with CREATE for over a year now as a Young Consultant. I've done all 3 levels of Speak Up and different speeches telling my story. A little bit about me, I'm from Lake Tires Gunaikurnai mob. I have been in foster care since I was born and now I am in permanent care. I've been lucky enough to have been offered the opportunity to work at William Warrain, which is an Aboriginal gathering place down here on the Mornington Peninsula. I get to work with kids and elders to learn and teach more about the history and culture of the First Nation's People. We run a deadly kids program, a women's group and a men's group to teach everyone the history of our People. The reason I do the work I do, is so I have so many open doors to the new journeys ahead of me. My message to all the young people in care: "Grab every opportunity you have!"

WANT TO KNOW WHAT EVENTS ARE ON NEAR YOU?

Call your local state team on 1800 655 105 or check out all our events at create.org.au/find-an-event

WA ROUND UP

Update...







Highlights!

Our YAGs have been crazy fun lately! To celebrate the new year, we got fancy and went on a boat cruise. We celebrated all of our 2021 achievements. We also did a mug painting workshop YAG where young people expressed what important areas of advocacy they want to focus on this year. December was full of CELEBRATION! Our Christmas party in Bunbury was a huge hit! We loved meeting more of our members in Bunbury! Kym also went and hung out with the Safe Sistas girls from Geraldton in Perth for summer camp. It was really nice seeing them and we can't wait to head to Geraldton again soon.



NEW YC'S

We have introduced 6 brand new Young Consultants. We are SO excited to have some powerful new voices join us. We're also so proud that our YC's also made an AMAZING song with rap artist and beat maker Paulie P! Check it out on YouTube (Speak Up! A song by CREATE Young Consultants) - also featured in this magazine. Well done guys!



See you soon! FROM THE WA CREATE TEAM

BIG CHANGES...

We had had some BIG changes to our team, and an exciting couple of months!

Welcome our fantastic new State Coordinator, Deb! Deb is from up north and is super passionate about the care system. She is excited about Homestretch and making sure regional young people are getting heard.

And we welcome... Ellie!! Ellie is a super passionate new Community Facilitator and we are so excited to have her on the team! She is running our YAGs and has lots of fun activities planned for you all!

We sadly said goodbye to Bridget - big thanks to Bridget for her amazing work. She said "You're an awesome bunch of young people and I can't wait to see what incredible things you all achieve!".



How do you feel about CREATE and the work we do?

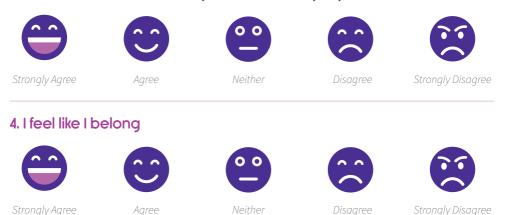
CREATE wants to hear from you! By filling out this survey, you are helping us make sure that the programs and activities that CREATE provides are relevant and useful to children and young people with an out-of-home care experience. Your identity will not be released to anyone outside of CREATE and participation is voluntary.

Because I am a part of CREATE:

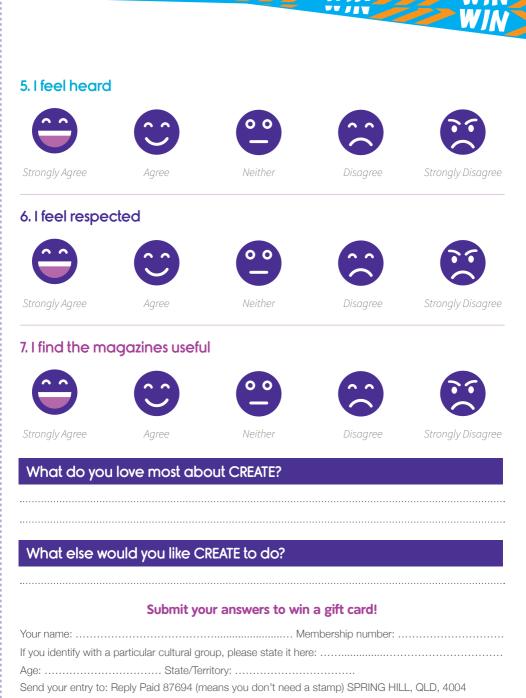
1. I feel more connected to others in the care system



3. I know how to make a complaint or have my say about CREATE



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You can also scan or type your answers and send them over email to clubcreate@create.org.au with your name, age and membership number. **Entries close 6th May 2022.**

YOUROCKSPOT!

EDition 4, 2021 COMP WINNERS

OUR COMP WINNERS FROM LAST MAG ARE (DRUMROLL PLEASE!):

Tyler, 9 for his joke: Knock knock Who's there Who? Who who? Why do you talk like an owl! Madie, 12 for her colouring in entry

Ruby and Scep for their CREATE survey entries - thanks for your feedback and helping us to make CREATE better.

> CONGRATULATIONS! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR PRIZES!



CREATE Foundation Limited National Office 12 Union Street Parramatta NSW 2150 Tel 1800 655 105 ABN 69 088 075 058

If you do not wish to receive newsletters and program information from CREATE Foundation please email clubcreate@create.org.au or phone CREATE on (07) 3062 4860 to have your address removed from the mailing list.

HOW TO STATE CONNECTED WITH CREATE

If you want to attend awesome events with CREATE make sure you are a clubCREATE member so you can automatically receive invitations and information.

Other ways to contact CREATE:

- 1. Become a clubCREATE member and join up at www.create.org.au
- 2. Call your local CREATE office on 1800 655 105 and talk to one of the team about what's coming up.
- 3. If you are already a clubCREATE member make sure your clubCREATE membership details are up-to-date.
- 4. Visit www.create.org.au to find out more about how we can support you.

This publication has been designed using resources from freepik.com and vecteezy.com.