

MEDIA ALERT

15 February 2022

SAVE THE DATE –

RESILIENT, RESOURCEFUL, REMARKABLE

NATIONAL CONNECTION FOR CARE SECTOR COMING UP!

The count-down is on until the **2022 Voices in Action: Resilient, Resourceful, Remarkable conference**, taking place from 26-29th April, 2022. The fifth biennial conference is an established sector platform encouraging collaboration between key decision-makers and those with a lived experience of out-of-home care to find solutions to the toughest problems within the care sector.

A global online gathering, the **Voices in Action Conference** includes inspiring speakers sharing their wisdom and expertise, including a keynote by **Isaiah Dawe**, interactive panels and creative workshops and competitions.

The conference schedule will continue being updated, with further speaker announcements and updates. The **Voices in Action Conference** facilitates a dedicated space for the child protection sector to connect, learn and move towards positive future change.

In Australia alone, over 45,996¹ children did not sleep in their own home last night and are presently growing up in out-of-home care. Further to this, five percent of Australia's children identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and yet this same cohort disproportionately represent more than a third of children in out-of-home-care (approximately 18,862). The need for appropriate supports and resources for those in care remains urgent.

Voices in Action: Resilient, Resourceful, Remarkable.

Don't miss this opportunity to come together as a community in 2022! Register by 11 March 2022 to receive a posted delegate satchel.

CREATE Foundation is the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience (including kinship care, foster care and residential care). CREATE develops policy and research to report on and advocate for a better care system.

Conference info & registration via: <https://voicesinaction.create.org.au/> For information please visit the CREATE website at www.create.org.au

For further comment from CREATE's Chief Executive, Ms Jacqui Reed, and/or a young person with care experience contact Leigh White, CREATE Media Advisor, via (m) 0431 932 122 or leigh.white@create.org.au

Key statistics on the care sector in Australia:

1. 45,996 children and young people were reported in 2019-20 as living in out-of-home care across Australia (*Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, 2021*).

2. Young people in out-of-home care are 16 times more likely to be under a youth justice order than the general population.
3. 30% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care. (McDowall, J. J. (2020).
4. 46% of males have been involved with the justice system since leaving care.
5. 29% of young people who have left care or preparing to leave care are unemployed.
6. 36% children and young people in care do not live with any of their siblings.
7. 35% of young people in care have five or more caseworkers during their time in care.
8. 67% of young people in care over the age of 15 are not aware of having a leaving care plan.

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

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