

MEDIA ALERT

26 April 2022

creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

VOICES IN ACTION

CARE SECTOR CONFERENCE BEGINS TODAY!

26-29 April, 2022, the **Voices in Action: Resilient, Resourceful, Remarkable** conference, will bring together key decision makers, young people with a lived experience of out-of-home care and experts from across the globe to find solutions to the toughest problems within the care sector.

This fifth biennial **Voices in Action Conference** will be opened by His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) followed by a diverse expert speaker program along with creative competitions for young people attending and fun, interactive creative workshops, co-facilitated with **Life Without Barriers**.

The **Voices in Action Conference (ViA)** enables a truly global perspective, highlighted by our geographically dispersed guest speakers, including Canadian resilience expert, Dr Michael Ungar, Ph.D., Melbourne consultant psychologist, Gregory Nicolau and Britain's Caine Wild each sharing their unique insights and expertise throughout the conference.

Dr Michael Ungar, Ph.D is the founder and Director of the **Resilience Research Centre** at Dalhousie University, whose ground-breaking work as a family therapist and resilience researcher achieves international recognition.

Consultant Psychologist and founder of both **The Australian Childhood Trauma Group** and, **Ripple** mental health app, **Gregory Nicolau** will share his skills and expertise conference as both speaker and MC, creating a powerful platform for attendees to have their say and be heard during the four-day event.

Britain's, **Caine Wild**, is the Company Director and founder of First Step Wild Ltd, who will be sharing a dynamic presentation of collective insights about growing up in care.

Voices in Action: Resilient, Resourceful, Remarkable.

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.

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 registrations are now closed. The conference schedule is available 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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