

PRIZES TO BE WON INSIDE! ENTER THE COMPETITIONS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

# CLUBCREATE MAGAZINE

## MAKE IT 21 EDITION

Update your  
details and WIN!

Meet  
Young Consultant  
Aaron

Make it 21  
Timeline

Artwork: Painting The Gap, Red Hot Arts Central Australia.  
Photography credit STS Photography.

**create**  
FOUNDATION

Edition 1 2023



# welcome to the CLUBCREATE MAGAZINE



EDITION 1 2023

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Hi clubCREATE-ers!

At the end of last year I was fortunate to spend some time overseas, meeting up with many of our sister agencies and sharing stories about amazing young people in care and how we can best support them.

Of course, the highlight of last year was Queensland and New South Wales joining the other states in providing supports to young people up to the age of 21. Years of hard work done by CREATE and other agencies came to fruition and we couldn't be prouder. In this edition of the clubCREATE magazine we will show you the journey of #Makeit21 and what supports are available to 18-21 year olds in each state. You will also meet a Young Consultant and a Young Person Representative on the Influencing Committee.

I am always keen to hear from you about how we (CREATE) are doing, and how we can improve. I welcome you to email me to say hi and share your thoughts to [create@create.org.au](mailto:create@create.org.au).

I hope you enjoy this magazine and please enter our competitions, there are heaps of prizes and vouchers to be won. Think about what you would do with a \$100 voucher...

*Jacqui Reed*

Head Honcho

### WE LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

Send suggestions into [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au)

### 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. 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 that if these young people are not reflective of the story or blurred it is for safety and legal reasons. All contributions to be considered for the magazine can be submitted by email:

[clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto: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](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.



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### 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.

### GET SOCIAL!

Facebook: /CREATEfnd

Instagram: @CREATEfnd



# IN THE LOOP

## World Care Day

World Care Day on the 17th February is the world's biggest celebration of children who grow up in care.

The theme for 2023 was 'Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover, Embrace our Stories Instead'. Children and young people are strong, resilient and more than just their care experience! Thank you to everyone who got vocal, got social and celebrated World Care Day 2023.

#WORLDCAREDAY2023



## Families Week

National Families Week is celebrated every year between 15th and 21st May, to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families.

The theme for this year is 'living real, dreaming big' - celebrating resilient families in 2023. National Families Week is a time to explore and celebrate the strengths within our families and communities, and dare to dream of a safe and resilient world.



## How do you think we are doing?

We are always keen to hear the views of children and young people about how we are doing, and how we can improve. Take a few minutes to tell us what you think – send your email to [create@create.org.au](mailto:create@create.org.au).



## MEET AARON

### My name is Aaron

#### About me:

I'm 24, almost 25, from Victoria, I am an Emergency Relief Worker and a Young Consultant. I've been a Young Consultant with CREATE for the last 6-7 years, primarily focusing on mental health, and the training of workers.

#### What do I do:

Well there are a few areas that I'm currently involved with at CREATE: YAGs, Youth Expert Advisory Group, the National Influencing Committee, National Mentoring Reference Group and Homestretch Victoria. There are plenty of others both past and current.

#### I love working for CREATE because:

CREATE provides me with a tonne of opportunities to better myself, my understanding, meet new people and explore the world. CREATE also helps me with my work to create professional partnerships and to develop my own list of professional contacts.

#### What do I do in my own time:

I love to game, hang out with friends, travel and explore the world among many others.

#### Something wacky about myself:

I enjoy using public transport for work, I usually travel for about 4 hours a day (2 hours each way) in Melbourne. I find it useful to have the extra time to study, catch up on work or to socialize with my friends

**'Stay Frosty,  
Stay Hydrated  
& Take Care'**



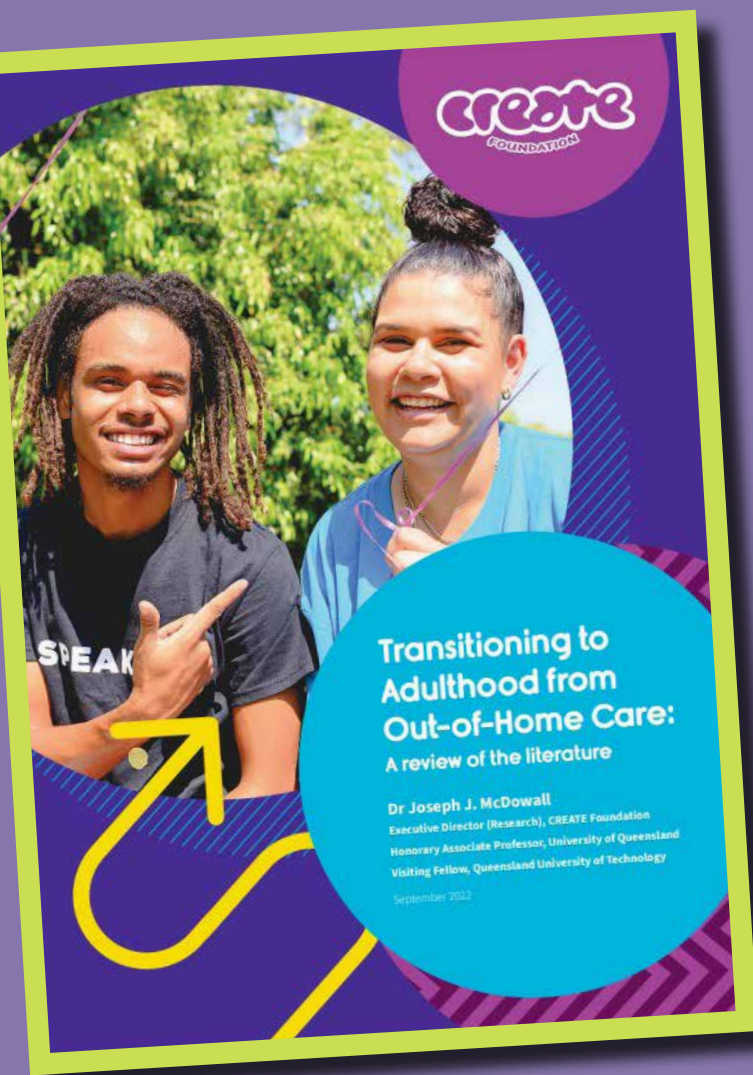
# MAKE IT 21 TIMELINE

We finally did it! We made it 21 all over Australia. CREATE has been advocating for many years in each state and territory to make this happen. With NSW's announcement late last year, all states and territories are now providing support to young people to the age of 21. Have a look at what supports are on offer in your state between the ages of 18-21.



\*After a trial in 2020-2021





## QLD LITERATURE REVIEW SUPPORT TO 21

Our Policy and Advocacy Team have published **"Transitioning to Adulthood from Out-of-Home Care: A review of the literature"**

This literature review was commissioned by the Queensland Government to inform the implementation of its decision to extend support for young people leaving out-of-home care up to 21. These important reforms will commence in July 2023.

The literature review was part of a larger consultation project led by CREATE involving a state-wide survey, Think Tanks and Youth Advisory Groups, and supported by a Reference Group of young people. These processes combined to ensure the voices of children and young people across the state are heard and can guide this important reform.

CREATE would like to thank all the young people and agencies that supported this project.

## CREATE SUBMISSIONS

Our advocacy is making a difference in the industry and amplifying the voices of young people in care. We have two recent submissions both in South Australia; one into the Inquiry into First Nations Out-of-Home Care Experience and the other into the Review of the Children and Young People Safety Act 2017.



## WHAT'S A LEAVING CARE PLAN?

When you turn 15, your support team should start to talk to you about your future. You may hear the term 'Leaving Care Plan' or 'Transition from Care Plan'.

This might seem overwhelming for some or exciting for others, but the idea of having a 'plan' is to make sure you have the support you need to live the life you want. It's important to know, becoming independent is a transition and you don't have to do it alone.

CREATE has worked with young people to create booklets, apps, a website, and workshops to help you prepare. Check out these tools by CREATE to get started. Chat with your support team to help you.

*"Get involved as much as you possibly can. Don't make just one plan, make lots, because sometimes things don't go the way we'd like. Have a backup plan and make sure you have supports during your transition planning and also after."*  
- Young Person.

### SORTLI App



### GYOW Kit



### CREATE Your Future workshops



### CREATE Your Future website



### You are not alone

In each state and territory across Australia there are post care support services to help and support you with your transition from care. Scan the QR code, check out the CREATE Your Future Website for a list of numbers or download the Sortli app.





# PAINTING THE GAP

Some of our amazing young people in Alice Springs have contributed to the 'Painting the Gap' mural project showcasing beautiful Indigenous art. The vibrant mural features the work of lead artist, Jeremiah Daniels-Pepperill with support from local artists, Letitia Firth and Larry McCrabb. The 'Painting the Gap' project was facilitated by Red Hot Arts Central Australia.



# MEET A CREATE MATE

**Tell us about yourself!**

**What's your role?**

My name is Tony Shephard and I am a Case Manager for Residential houses with Integrated Family and Youth Service (IFYS) in Far North Queensland

**Why are you a CREATE Mate?**

I feel it's a good opportunity to connect our young people with an advocacy group so our young people can learn to advocate and support themselves as they get older

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

Providing young people with care and services that they would otherwise not be aware of. Some of the young people I support come to us with limited knowledge of those who want to help and support so connecting those young people with the right organizations is rewarding

**Everyone's a bit wacky in their own way! What's a fun fact about you?**

I've had the opportunity to fly planes, drive trains and automobiles!



## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS AND WIN



Confirm or update your details to go in the draw for one of three \$100 vouchers.

Updates can be submitted via:

- Post it to Reply Paid 87694 Spring Hill Qld 4004 (no stamp required)
- email to [julie.amos@create.org.au](mailto:julie.amos@create.org.au)
- Online: <https://forms.office.com/r/6SjzT2GT6T> (QR Code)

Closing date: 5th May 2023





# MEET A YOUNG CONSULTANT

**CREATE in South Australia is so glad to have the opportunity to interview one of our fantastic Young Consultants!**

Adam Greenwood has been a huge part of CREATE in SA since 2013. He attends our Connection Events and YAGs. In 2019 Adam completed SUP and became one of our Young Consultants which means he has opportunities to work with other organisations on special projects, be a part of high level meetings, facilitate our Worker Training to the sector, and go to events like the 2023 WOMAD Music Festival!

*"My favourite thing is the food. Just kidding."*

Adam's favourite thing is being able to meet new people, join in in forums, and making changes in CREATE!

Through working with CREATE, Adam has become a brilliant advocate in the out-of-home care (OOHC) system and knows this is a special position to have.

Adam thinks that it is really important that ALL children and young people in OOHC get the same support and opportunities as each other. For instance, Adam has mild Autism and he found that he wasn't given as much support as others because he was considered by the Department and NDIS as "too mild". As a Young Consultant, Adam is able to help make changes in the OOHC system that he wishes to see.

*"We can make sure that people in care now don't end up in the same positions that people in older generations ended up in."*

Adam is really proud of his game collection, he's got HEAPS of video games! His favourite game at the moment is the Dragonball Kakarot; he loves the Dragonball series.

*"The coolest experience I've had is when I went to Government House to meet the Governor. We spoke about some things I want to change in care and what some struggles are that kids in care might face. For example, we were talking about how hard it is to get a Driver's Licence and that a lot of people I know can't afford it."*

In 2023, CREATE in SA will be meeting with our Young Consultants in January, April, July, and October to put our heads together on some of our key advocacy agendas and to see what our Young Consultants want to see changed in the OOHC System. Adam will be there so if you're a Young Consultant feel free to pop in, have a feed, and say hello!

**If you are not a Young Consultant but would like to see what it's all about, please come to one of our Speak Up Programs!**

- April: Thursday 20th (Level 1)
- July: Monday 10th & 17th (Level 1), Thursday 20th (Level 2 & Activity)
- October: Monday 3rd & 9th (Level 1), Thursday 12th (Level 2 & Activity)



# THE FUN ZONE

Use the letters below to make as many words as you can. Can you make a panagram (use every letter). How many words (with more than 3 letters) can you make? Hint: you can use letters more than once.



To enter this competition:

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.create.org.au/competitions)
4. Post it back to us free of charge! Send to Reply Paid 87694 SPRING HILL QLD 4004

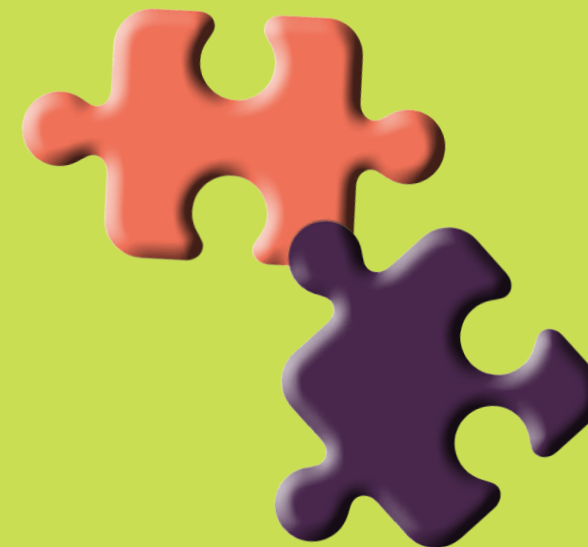
Entries close 5th May 2023. Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!



# RIDDLES



Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April, the second child was named May. What was the third child's name?



Maggie throws a tennis ball as hard and far as she can. The ball comes straight back to her. How does this happen?

## CHALLENGE



Self portrait. Create an artwork - paint, draw, sculpt or take a photo of yourself doing something you love.

Go in the draw to win a voucher!



To enter this competition:

1. Send your entry via email to [clubCREATE@create.org.au](mailto: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](http://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 5th May 2023. Make sure you include your name and age, and if you know it your clubCREATE ID number. GOOD LUCK!





# ACT ROUND UP

What's been happening?

## Meet Dot

Heya, and let me introduce myself: I'm Dot, the new Community Facilitator for ACT. I've lived in the ACT for about 10 years, but am new to CREATE and absolutely loving working with young people in an organisation that works to make a difference. I've met some of the awesome crew that CREATE is working with in ACT and I'm keen to keep that going, so jump into one of our upcoming events and say hi! Or email me at [dot.foley@create.org.au](mailto:dot.foley@create.org.au)



## Events

We had so much fun at the Zoo and Inflatable World Connection Events! Thanks to all those who came. The next event is a BBQ in the park in March. All children and young people with a care experience, and their carers and immediate family, are welcome to attend this free event. CREATE will also be running Speak Up (SUP) programs in March. SUP programs are a chance for young people to have fun and also gain skills in advocacy, leadership, and public speaking, to then represent their peers with a care experience. The programs are designed to take young people on a journey from advocating on an individual to a national level, while increasing their self-confidence and interpersonal connections.



# NSW ROUND UP

What's been happening?

## Hello CREATE Friends!

It's already 2023 and we wrapped up 2022 with a bang! We were out in Dubbo in early December and had some fun times meeting with our regional members and CREATE Mates. We've been taking full advantage of the reduced restrictions and want to be out and about connecting with you all as much as possible. We got to hear lots of cool ideas on what fun events we could do and we'll be making plans for 2023.



## #itsyourturnNSW Celebration

We really wanted to celebrate the achievement of #itsyourturnnsw campaign with you all and honour everyone and especially the amazing Young Consultants that put in a lot of effort to make this advocacy win happen. We were able to do this at our Christmas YAG and had so much FUN! If we missed you, there'll be plenty of events coming up this year that we'd love for you to join.

We enjoyed a truly memorable night out at our Christmas Connection Event at Hunter Valley Gardens. We had over 70 attendees (our biggest event since COVID) as we wandered through the themed displays that were created with over 3 million lights. We're looking forward to CONNECT-ing, hearing your EMPOWER-ed voices and making more CHANGE happen!



## We've moved!

If you haven't heard already, the CREATE office in New South Wales has moved and we are now on L6-80 George Street, Parramatta.



# NT ROUND UP

What's been happening?

## Children's Court Practitioner's Conference

The 17th of November 2022 marked the 5th anniversary of the release of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, and the 3rd annual Children's Court Practitioner's Conference was held to align with the release of the Royal Commission. The conference was an opportunity to discuss progress made in achieving recommendations made in the Royal Commission. This year one of CREATE's Young Consultants, Alicia, attended the Conference in Alice Springs to share her perspective on the link between out-of-home care and youth justice, and talk about the impact the youth justice system has had on her as a person with siblings who have had to navigate the justice system. The session was chaired by the National Children's Commissioner, Anne Hollonds. Well done Alicia, the insight you gave practitioners from a lived experience was invaluable to those in attendance who make important decisions in the lives of young people in out-of-home care and in youth justice. If you want to be involved in opportunities like this, get in touch with the NT team to complete our Speak Up program!



## Farewell to Mimi!

Mimi has moved on to work in Western Australia for an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. She'll be continuing her great work with young people, only in the West Kimberley. We have all loved working with Mimi and we know all the young people at CREATE will miss her too. Good luck on your next adventure Mimi!

## Farewell from Rosalind

"I have been the NT State Coordinator at CREATE for nearly 3 years and the time has come for me and my family to seek a new adventure interstate. I am so sad to be leaving CREATE, my amazing colleagues in the NT and most of all the many young people I have had the privilege of getting to know over the last 3 years. You all contribute so much to positive change within the care system and I know you will continue to shine. Watch this space to see who the new State Coordinator will be and in the meantime, Chris and Sam, our Community Facilitators in the NT, will be in touch about some exciting things that are coming up in Darwin and Alice Springs."

# QLD ROUND UP

What's been happening?

Hello to all the young people across Australia taking time out of your day to read Queensland's round up. First off, we hope that everyone had a happy and safe holiday, Happy New Years to all and Merry Christmas to those who celebrate.

One of the biggest highlights of this period was a return of regular meetings with the Minister for Child Protection Leanne Linnard and the DG Deidri Mulkerin - we had the privilege of taking four Young Consultants to discuss all things Queensland. Some of the big topics were around support to 21 and how that will look for you. We also chatted about having more health support for young people leaving care.

To celebrate CREATE in Queensland's 2022 we were very fortunate to be able to host over 100 young people at Wet'n'Wild on the Gold Coast. We were so thankful to share in the joy with young people, carers and families. Special shout out to those young people in particular who managed to convince some of the CREATE staff to get on the water slides, we all had an amazing time and we hope you did too.

On the topic of Queensland staff, we also want to shout out our newest Community Facilitator Selina, she comes to us with a wealth of experience and a background in advocacy and she can't wait to meet you all at our upcoming YAGs in the Brisbane office.

Our CREATE team in Cairns also finished off the year in style with a celebration at Inflatable World and we want to thank all 60 of you that attended! It was amazing to end the year with you all!





# SA ROUND UP

## What's been happening?

Hi there,  
What a nice start to the year we've had!  
We went for a swim at the Mount Barker Pool, flew over to Port Lincoln, ate a picnic lunch and got crafty at the Botanic Gardens, and had a movie night at the Office of the Guardian with the new Guardian Shona (who you'd recognise from the last magazine!).

We put together over 20 backpacks for children and young people coming into care, we made sure there were new clothes, stuff to read and watch, toiletries of course, some journals, and other goodies inside so that kids coming into care have something special just for them. It was a really nice day and we made a difference!

We'll be visiting Port Augusta in April so give us a call or email if you're keen to catch up, have some fun, enjoy some good food, and make some changes in the system! (If you live close by in Pt Lincoln or Whyalla and want to come, touch base with your social worker or your carers and see if you're able to make the trip - we'd love to see you there).



### Youth Advisory Groups

- April: Thursday 13th - Easter Egg Hunt!
- May: Saturday 13th - Go Karts
- June: Saturday 24th - Cooking Class (DELICIOUS!)
- July: Friday 7th - Surprise!

In our YAG's, we're going to be having some great chats about being in Out-of-Home Care and what you'd like to see changed!

### Connection Events

- March: Saturday 18th Harmony Day @ Christie Downs
- June: Saturday 3rd Sibling Day! Bring your bio and/or your foster siblings along for a fun time!!!

### Speak Up

- April: Thursday 20th (Level 1) City AND Port Augusta!!!
- July: Monday 10th & 17th (Level 1), Thursday 20th (Level 2 & Activity)

**We've moved offices - we're now at 118 West Tce, Adelaide**

# TAS ROUND UP

## What's been happening?

### What we've been up to!

In November we were eating donuts off a broomstick, poking spiders and pinning the nose on the pumpkin at the annual Halloween Connection Event! In December we explored participation and what it means at our CREATE Your Future Workshop, then we worked as a team to launch each other on a tree top swing at Fusion Adventures! We visited Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary to celebrate Christmas, had some yummy food by Rapid Relief, fed kangaroos and talked to the 100-year-old cockatoo! In January we were privileged to attend and run an activity at the Putalina Festival, a celebration of Aboriginal Music and Culture. In February we raced around Launceston for the CYF Great Race and got really muddy on some obstacles following a great Speak Up Workshop!

### YAGs!

Recently, young people attending YAGs have contributed to discussions about Consents and Permission processes and the merger of departments, now known as the Department for Education, Children and Young People. Our most recent YAG discussed changes to case management processes for some young people in care throughout Tasmania. This info is being used on a submission to the department, to ensure young people's voices are heard on this issue. Recent YAG participants have had a fabulous time at bowling and laser tag and those participating in online Zoom YAGs received a \$25 voucher.

Anyone 10+ with a care experience can attend a YAG. Our chats are casual and we always do a fun activity. Can't wait to see you next time!

### Meet Martha!

Hi, my name is Martha Hay and I started with CREATE in November last year. I was born in Perth, Western Australia where I studied social work. I moved to the United Kingdom in 2002 and spent nine years there working and travelling before coming to Tasmania. I spent time doing child protection work in London and also voluntary aid work in Africa. My work has always centred around children and young people.

My hobbies include playing the flute and piano, travelling, watching movies and spending time with my daughter.

I am very excited to be part of the CREATE team and really look forward to meeting you all!





# VIC ROUND UP

What's been happening?



## Advocacy Highlights

The young people who are part of the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (MYAG) are looking forward to meeting the new Minister for Child Protection, Lizzie Blandthorn. They will continue to use the MYAG meetings to inform the government of the changes they wish to see in the care system. Congratulations to Joel and Ash who have now joined the MYAG.

The Youth Expert Advisory Group on Transitions from Care (YEAG), is made up of young people aged 18-25 who provide advice to the Department and agencies on support services for young people as they transition from care. We kicked off the year with a celebration dinner, and discussed the results of a survey of YEAG members that identified topics they wish to advocate around in 2023. Key themes included more housing options, mental health support, combating stigma faced by young parents, and support for young people transitioning who have involvement with youth justice.

CREATE were thrilled to celebrate the end of 2022 with our end-of-year celebration at Gumbuya World. We were joined by 200 children, young people, and their families for a fun day out. We had a delicious BBQ lunch and cold water to stay hydrated. We got up close to some animals and even went on a water ride or two. We also headed to an Italian restaurant for our end of year YAG celebration - yum!



# WA ROUND UP

What's been happening?



## Young Consultant Focus

Christopher has been with CREATE for over 10 years involving himself in many different programs, on the Youth Consultant panel, as a facilitator, and on various interview panels. Chris has been a fundamental part of the CREATE family throughout the years.

*"The reason I started with CREATE was that I had a bad time in foster care and I wanted to help others coming after me so they don't have to go through the pain and suffering I went through. I might have had a bad time but others don't have to."*

Thank you, Chris, for all your hard work and devotion to making a difference in the lives of young people in care.



## Dunsborough Regional Event

We had our first regional event of the year in Dunsborough and held a Connection Event at Xcape at the Cape. It was a great event where young people made some new friends and we got to know the the Foster Care Association South West a little better. We also bumped into Constance Hall who expressed her gratitude for the great advocacy work from CREATE and offered her platform to promote advocacy goals we may be working towards. We all felt like Tarzan at a recent YAG held at the high ropes course.

## Health Navigator Pilot Program

A shout out to an amazing group of Young Consultants working on the exciting Health Navigator Pilot Program with the Department of Health and Department of Communities. They have been providing valuable input into the pilot so that children entering care have better access to health services. Watch this space!





# YOU ROCK!

## EDITION 4 2022 WINNERS

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

**T2A Competition**  
Lily, WA

**Survey**  
Natasha, NT

CONGRATULATIONS! WE HOPE  
YOU ENJOY YOUR PRIZES!



## HOW TO STAY CONNECTED WITH CREATE

CREATE Foundation Limited  
National Office  
Level 6, 80 George Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150  
Tel 1800 655 105  
ABN 69 088 075 058  
If you do not wish to receive  
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please email [clubcreate@create.org.au](mailto:clubcreate@create.org.au)  
or phone CREATE on (07) 3062 4860  
to have your address removed from the  
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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](http://www.create.org.au)
2. Call your local CREATE office on 1800 655 105 and talk to one of the team about what's
3. coming up.
4. If you are already a clubCREATE member – make sure your clubCREATE membership details are up-to-date.
5. Visit [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au) to find out more about how we can support you.