

Edition 1 2023

club

create

Magazine

Meet Young
Consultant
Aaron

Update your
details and
WIN!

Cover artwork by Malakai, aged 2

Games, competitions and MORE!

WELCOME TO THE



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 you will meet some of our amazing young people, as well as finding out what's been happening in your state. Don't forget to update your details to go in the draw to win a voucher, you can find the details on page 7!

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.

I hope you enjoy this magazine. There are heaps of prizes and vouchers to be won in this edition. Think about what you would do with a \$100 voucher...

Jacqui Reed

Head Honcho



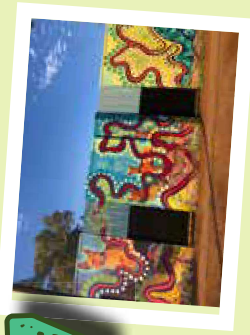
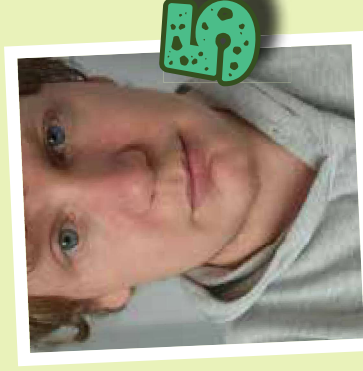
Acknowledgement of Country

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.

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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. 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 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



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 is '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 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 your views about how we here at CREATE are doing. How do you think we can improve? Take a few minutes to tell us what you think. You can send an email to create@create.org.au, draw us a picture or write us a letter - Reply Paid 87694 SPRING HILL QLD 4004 (no stamp required). However you like to express your feelings!

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'

ADVOCACY

Our mission is to create a better life for children and young people in care. At CREATE, we achieve our mission through our motto;



CONNECT to EMPOWER to CHANGE

Our Policy and Advocacy Team

CREATE's Policy and Advocacy Team are the people who are working to CHANGE the care system. They:

- Consult with children and young people
- Advocate to improve policies, practices and services
- Increase community awareness
- Represent the voices of children and young people in care
- Meet key decision makers

As you get older, you will get more opportunities to participate in events and training so YOU can help CHANGE the care system for the better.



"It's so different to see kids who have opportunity to go back and connect with country; it's a different lens, it's organic and beautiful, and you can see it change kids. We don't see it happen in care. There shouldn't be any difference; if we can celebrate it at home with our families why can't we do it in care?"

Quote from a young person in CREATE's submission into the First Nations Out-of-Home Care Experience in South Australia.

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.



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
Online <https://forms.office.com/r/6SjzT2GT6T>
Entries close 5th May 2023

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!



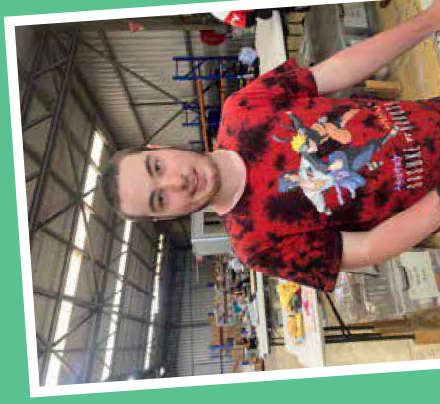
CREATE
mate

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, 2023**



Adam's favourite thing is being able to meet new people, join 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 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."
- Adam, 2023**

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?



To enter this competition:

1. Send your entry via email to clubCREATE@create.org.au
2. Send us a message on Instagram @CREATEfind or Facebook /CREATEfind
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 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 and 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
2. Send us a message on Instagram @CREATEfind or Facebook /CREATEfind
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 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

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.



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 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! 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

One of CREATE's Young Consultants, Alicia, attended the Children's Court Practitioner's 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.



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".

QLD ROUND UP

What's been happening?

Hello to all the young people across Australia!

One of the biggest highlights of this period was a return of regular meetings with the Minister for Child Protection Leanne Linnard and the Director General Deidri Mulkerin - we had the privilege of taking four Young Consultants to discuss all things Queensland.

To celebrate all the wins from CREATE Queensland in 2022 we were very fortunate to be able to host over 100 young people at Wet'n'Wild on the Gold Coast. 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. 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!

We 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.



SA ROUND UP

What's been happening?

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 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!).

Connection Events coming up

- 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!!!



We've moved - You can now find us 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!

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!



WIC 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.

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.



Starting off January 2023 with a Connection event at the Perth Zoo.



Dunsborough Regional Event

We had our first regional event of the year in Dunsborough and held a Connection Event at Xcape at the Cape. 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.

YOU ROCK!

EDITION 4 2022 WINNERS

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

THE FUN ZONE

Holly, VIC

RIDDLES

Sapphire, NSW

FUTURE DREAMS

Malakai, QLD

SURVEY

Ruby, QLD

CONGRATULATIONS!
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY
YOUR PRIZES!

create
FOUNDATION

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HOW TO STAY 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.